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ROCKY OR EDDIE?

By John Economos

STEVE ('Rocky') O'CONNOR, Australia's former international centre-back, currently the Head coach at Canberra's A.I.S., and the Marconi Stallions' boss and former Australian World Cup striker Eddie Krncevic, have recently had their names hoisted to the front as being most favoured to become the heir apparent to the recently retired coach of Australia's Under 17s and Youth squads, Les Scheinflug.

Soccer Australia's Board of Commissioners is expected not to make a final decision on this most vitally important appointment until sometime in April.

However, already the names of O'Connor, Krncevic as well as that of the Newcastle Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey, are the three leading contenders that have rocketed to the front on the betting lists to replace the retired Scheinflug.

The very quiet, surprisingly low profiled and totally laid back O'Connor, has lately had his name banded around the political corridors at Soccer Australia as being one of the outright favourites to take over the coaching reins from Scheinflug.

The powerful former international defender played for the all conquering championship-winning Sydney City teams in the late 70s and mid 80s with former national coach Eddie Thomson swooping behind O'Connor.

Over the past almost 10 years, O'Connor has rapidly accumulated vast experience in handling youth players at the Institute of Sport.

ABSW some years back had once questioned him whether he had come across any really special young talented player, in his characteristically casual and concise manner, O'Connor drawled back: "Yeah, I think there is one coming through right now."

"In fact he's the best I've seen and I think he'll go places."

And that, was no less than seven years ago.

At that time the name, 'Mark Viduka', meant very little to most people.

Most of course, except to one Steve O'Connor.

Today, that same name of Viduka, has bracketed alongside it as being the leading goalscorer at Celtic and top marksman in the entire Scottish Premier League with no less than 14 goals.

Krnicevic, another highly favoured candidate for the coaching position has represented Australia at all levels on international arenas around the world.

The lethal striker and former Marconi marksman, made his debut in the Green and Gold for Australia's first Youth team under the then coach Rudi Gutendorf in the 1979 World Youth Championships staged in Paraguay.

Newcastle Breakers' coach Sterrey, although never having represented



Eddie Krncevic: Marconi's head coach.

Steve ('Rocky') O'Connor: Head coach at the AIS.

WIN NEW MAN. UTD VIDEO

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THE GOOD OIL ...

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NSWSF

EARLY SUPERLEAGUE KICK-OFF

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New Editor at ABSW

Foreign Language Publications is pleased to announce the appointment of Vince Battiato (pictured) as Editor of the Australian & British Soccer Weekly.

This will be Mr Battiato's second stint with the newspaper which was first published in 1980.

He previously held the position of sub-editor between 1992 and 1995.

Over the past four years Mr Battiato has spent some time away from the media although having continued to do freelance work during that time.

His desire to write and his burning love for the game have brought him back to ABSW.

Mr Battiato has played at the highest level as a youth and has

more recently coached Sydney University to an Australian National Title at the University games in 1997.

Mr Battiato, 27, has been involved in the game as a player, coach, journalist and most importantly as a fan.

He will endeavour to continue to produce the high standards that ABSW provides to the soccer loving Australian public.

He hopes to achieve an even greater readership for ABSW in the coming years to add to the already cult following that the newspaper attracts.

Mr Battiato would like to thank Anthony Raineri, Daniel Giorelando, John Economos and the rest of the ABSW team for helping make his transition into the editor's role a very smooth and enjoyable one.



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SOCER AUSTRALIA	Adelaide Force	Auckland Kingz	Brisbane	Canberra	Carlton	Gippsland	Marconi	Melbourne K	Newcastle	Northern Spirit	Parramatta	Perth Glory	South Melbourne	Sydney Olympic	Sydney United	Wollongong
Adelaide Force	X 2-3 13	20	15	0-0	32	19	34	18 26	30	2-1	22	1-1	28	24	11	
Auckland Kingz	27 31	X 33	14	0-3	1-1	29	12	22	26	16	18	1-0	24	20	3-3 2-4	
Brisbane Strikers	2-1	19 X	21	1-1	11 34	17	15	28	2-2 32	3-1	24	5-1	30	26	13	
Canberra Cosmos	3-0	32	0-1	X 24 28	19	34	18	1-2	13	22	1-1	26	0-1 11	7	30	
Carlton	23	15	25	2-0 5-1	X 1-1	21	2-1	13	17	1-3	27	30 32	19	11	34	
Gippsland Falcons	14	28	16 29	33	20	X 12	31	1-0	2-0	18 24	0-1	22	0-1	1-1	26	
Marconi Stallions	33	11	18	16	0-4	30	X 14	24	1-0 28	15	20 31	2-0	26	22	1-0	
Melbourne Knights	16	30	0-1	17	22	13	32	X 3-0	11	20	0-3 26	24	2-1	1-0 33	28	
Newcastle Breakers	1-1 17	1-1	2-1	27	31	23	2-3	25	X 21	29	12	16 33	15	14	2-2	
Northern Spirit	12	3-2	14 22	31	18	27	25 1-1	29	0-2	X 33	16	20	0-1	15	24	
Parramatta Power	21	34	23	2-3	26	1-1 17	1-1	2-1	11	19	X 3-1	28	13	1-1 30	32	
Perth Glory	0-0	17	1-2	23	4-2	15	3-3 13	6-1 21	30	34	25	X 11	32	28	19	
South Melbourne	25	21	27	2-2	12 14	3-0	23	3-0	19 34	2-0	29	4-2	X 17	31	15	
Sydney Olympic	2-1	1-2	12	20 29	33	25	2-1	27	2-2	23	31	14	18	X 34	1-1 21	
Sydney United	1-0	2-1	0-0	25	29	21	1-2	19 23	32	0-2	12 27	0-1	13	16	X 18	
Wollongong Wolves	29	23 25	31	12	16	2-0	27	1-2	20	3-0	14	33	2-1 04	17	X	

Numbers indicate which round the match will be played in. Home teams listed vertically.

MARCONI BACK IN STYLE

By John Economos

THE MARCONI STALLIONS on Saturday night who play hosts to the League's fledgling side the Auckland Kingz at the Marconi Stadium, will be razor keen to quickly snap back onto the winning trail following a hiccup last Friday night through a 1-0 away loss to the Northern Spirit.

That loss was enough to knock Marconi two rungs down the League ladder to fifth spot, and four League points behind the still championship pace-setters, the Brisbane Strikers.

Marconi's stylish, but sceptical coach Eddie Krncevic, was still quietly annoyed about his team's loss against the Spirit as he stated to ABSW last night: "We had no luck whatsoever against the Spirit."

"I thought we deserved something from the match."

"They (Spirit) put up a good fight, but we hit the woodwork about three times and were again denied another penalty for a blatant foul on our striker Francis Awaritefe."

Then suddenly the cool Krncevic switched moods as he went on to reflect: "But there were many positive signs with my team's performance against the Spirit which pleased me."

"We got our midfield working and didn't rely on just belting it upfield."

"I believe that Marconi is now playing Soccer the way it

should be and that is something that has been missing the last few years."

"We are trying to be a stylish team and I believe that we are starting to come into gear."

"Once that happens, some team will really cop it," Krncevic visualised.

He then went on to add: "This Saturday night I expect a typical Kiwi fighting mentality from the Kingz when they come here."

"Their coach Wynton Rufer who is an excellent player and a personal friend of mine over the years, has done his very best with the side and with the limited resources he has at his disposal."

"His side has a typical Kiwi-tough fighting mentality and the Kingz will be hard to break down."

The Auckland Kingz last weekend drew 1-1 at North Harbour Stadium against Jeff Hopkins' Gippsland Falcons for their third draw after Round 10.

The Kingz had taken an early lead through attacking right midfielder Robbie Middleby in the 15th minute but the Falcons swooped back to 'balance the books' just four minutes after the break through industrious midfielder Brian MacNicol.

Despite the dynamic, veteran player-coach Rufer coming on after the break, he was unable to power the Kingz to victory.

The super former New Zealand World Cup ace striker Rufer, has in recent times been

heavily plagued by an injured Achilles tendon plus a shoulder injury.

Both required surgery during the off season.

Should the Kingz' player-coach come on to the pitch on Saturday night at any stage, it's imperative that one keeps a vigil eye on the legendary player who wears the No 7 shirt for the 'Black and Whites'.



Wynton Rufer: The Auckland Kingz' miraculous player/coach.

In just one second, this most superbly gifted and extremely highly skilled Rufer, can perform some miraculous feat out of absolutely nothing.

If you blink, you'll miss it.

Meanwhile competition for team selection in the Marconi camp steps up a gear or two this week with at least five players

coming back from injuries or suspension.

Twin international stoppers Mark Babic and Dominic Longo are almost ready to get back on the pitch following their lengthy time out with injuries.

But here both international defenders will experience problems in tearing back their first team shirts from central markers Chad Gibson and Mike Smith.

Both the mobile Gibson and the always tenacious Smith, not only have filled in solidly at the back over recent weeks, but both have contributed to Marconi's attack, by consistently coming forward to fire serious cracks at the target.

The steel-tough Smith in fact last Friday was denied a goal by the upright, as was the consistent left wingback Brendan Renaud.

Vastly improved midfielder Christian Care who missed last Friday night's 1-0 away loss against the Spirit through suspension, is back and is available for selection in the 'engine room'.

Marconi's robust blond midfielder Darren McDonald is another who missed the Spirit match through a strain to his quad, and is expected to make a return for selection.

Mobile and in-form striker Sean Babic who's been out with hamstring problems since the internationals against Brazil late last month, is expected to be fit.

Meanwhile Marconi's galling striker Francis Awaritefe,

although still not fully fit, made another very good comeback outing last Friday night.

"I feel I'm about a couple of games away from getting up to full gallop," Awaritefe stated to ABSW.

Sooner or later, Krncevic is going to start a match with his dynamic and highly energised Fijian 17-year-old international attacking midfielder, Junior.

This exceptionally talented and most exciting teenaged Fijian, to date has twice come off the bench for Marconi to instantly inject much needed pace and power to the side.

Krnecvic evaluated: "Sure Junior is still very young and a bit raw."

"But he's a very good talent and listens very well and is coming along fine."

"He'll get his chance in time," Marconi's coach promised.

Saturday night will be the last chance for some very lucky family that will win a fabulous trip to spectacular Disneyland in the United States of America.

Entry forms will again be available at the Marconi Stadium and the final draw will be made during halftime of the main game.

But the eventual lucky winning Family must be at the Stadium to claim the prize valued at well over \$10,000.

Many other special attractions and entertainment have been planned for Saturday night and will be on show at the Marconi Stadium.

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VS

KINGZ FC

**MAIN GAME
KICK OFF 7PM**

**STALLIONETTES PERFORMANCE
PRE MATCH AND HALF TIME**

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

PAUL FOSTER, the Brisbane Striker's veteran marksman, was released at the end of last season by the Northern Spirit, having joined them following a lengthy playing sojourn in Hong Kong.

At 33 years of age, Foster was far from feeling despondent and looked up John Kosmina in Brisbane.

'Come on up now,' was Kossie's response.

How the wheel of fortune can change.

Since joining the Queenslanders, Foster has performed absolutely nothing but wonders with the Strikers.

To date, the experienced lethal striker has hit the target with monotonous regularity.

Last Saturday week, the murderous marksman nailed in his first 'hat-trick' of the season, and of all teams to do it to, against the League champions South Melbourne.

Last Friday night in Brisbane's away game against the Newcastle Breakers, the 'firing Foster' was kept scoreless. Foster



Rod Brown: Record holder of most goals scored in the NSL.

Damian Mori	129.
Marshall Soper	119.
Francis Awaritefe	113.
Ivan Kelic	109.
Gary Cole	109.
John Markovski	104.
Warren Spink	104.
Frank Farina	102.
Paul Trimboli	97.

Doumanis, Lucas Pantelis and Wayne Srohoj, with strikers Joshua Kennedy and Dylan MacAllister.

On Saturday night at Sydney Olympic's home clash against the Adelaide Force at the Belmore Sports Ground, Scheinflug was presented to the Soccer fans together with goalie Vanstratten, Cansdell-Sheriff, MacAllister, Groves, Doumanis and midfielder Louis Brain.

On Sunday, Scheinflug plus six members of his 1999 F.I.F.A. Under 17s Silver medallists, were saluted by the home crowd at the Bob Jane Stadium before the South Melbourne vs the Parramatta Power match.

Australia's coach this time was accompanied by Byrnes, striker Scott McDonald, Brain, defender Iain Fyfe, goalkeeper Matthew Milosevic plus defender Aaron Goulding.

At all three venues these



Paul Foster: The Brisbane Strikers' top hitman.

has rocketted his tally to nine League goals to date this season, and heads the Leading Goalscorers' charts in the NSL ahead of the pack made up by: Sean Babic (Marconi), Con Boutsianis (Glory), Ivan Ergic (Glory), Joel Griffiths (Parramatta Power), Alex Moreira (Carlton), Daniel Watkins (Canberra Cosmos).

SPEAKING of goalscorers, we thought readers would like to know who were the greatest marksmen in the League's 22 year history. Leading the pack were ace-strikers Rod Brown and John Kosmina with 137 and 133 respectively.

Andy Harper 94.

Australia's wonderful and heroic members of the Under 17s and magnificent finalists from the recent World Championships staged in New Zealand, were honoured last weekend at three NSL venues.

The first appearance was made last Friday night at the North Sydney Oval at the match Northern Spirit vs Marconi Stallions where coach Les Scheinflug with skipper and defender Mark Byrnes, goalie Jess Vanstratten, defenders Shane Cansdell-Sheriff and Jade North, plus midfielders Bradley Groves, Anthony



Mark Byrnes: Proud captain of Australia's magnificent Under 17s.



By John Economos

fabulous and now world famous 17-year-old Australian Soccer-soldiers were given a cacophonic standing ovation.

THE NEWCASTLE BREAKERS last Friday played their 100th home match in the NSL in their clash with the Brisbane Strikers, and won 2-1.

A DELAIDE FORCE last week signed up an unusual sponsorship deal with Italian shoe manufacturer 'Valleverde'. The deal requires the Force to sell at least 250 pairs of the high quality shoes to generate sponsorship bucks.

THE MARCONI STALLIONS last Saturday were special invited guests at the Rosehill Racescourse.

Part-time punter and skipper of Marconi, Brad Maloney, organised the 'Day At The Races' as a pre-Christmas get-together to unwind the team.

"Some of the boys are



Brad Maloney: Marconi's skipper and track expert.

keen punters and I for one can think of no better way to rid ourselves of any tensions than to spend a day at Rosehill Racecourse. It's a long season ahead and this day away from Soccer is a tremendous tonic for team morale," ended the Marconi goalscorer.

PETER GRAY, president of the NSW Soccer Federation, today (Tuesday) at a special function, will launch the 'Super League 2000' season.

The NSW Super League kicks off much earlier than any other year, with blast off for the coming season scheduled in January.

Today's Soccer launch function is being staged at



PETER GRAY:
President of the NSW
Soccer Federation.

the scenic Italian 'Vieri' restaurant, owned jointly by the world's most expensive striker (\$74 million) Inter Milan marksman Christian Vieri in partnership with his best mate, Attilio Labbozzetta.

PAUL OKON's appointment late last month as Australia's latest 'caretaker captain', for the second match in Melbourne against the touring Brazilians, met with very little, if any, criticism from most Soccer experts and the media in general.

And that despite the most unfortunate, and immature, 'walk out' by the talented Ned Zelic.

Together with Manchester United's ace goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, Fiorentina's quality midfielder or sweeper Okon, must surely be Australia's best-ever talent exported to Europe on record.

'Good Oil' having closely watched the superb little Okon growing up at Marconi as a teenaged sweeper, even back then recognised this player's vast potential.

That potential has exploded well above all expectations.

Not only is the lad a fabulously talented and skilled player, with a great awareness of what is going on all around him, Okon has



PAUL OKON: Will he be Australia's next World Cup captain?

a great degree of intelligence that enables him to instantly 'read' the game.

Topping this mountain of excellent qualities, Okon's soundly balanced character is heavily sprinkled with maturity, and above all, well understands how to be humble.

Aren't all these qualities almost identical to those possessed by Australia's great cricketing captains, as was the magnificent Mark Taylor, and now Steve Waugh?

Both were, and are, winners on the pitch as well as off it.

Then why not Okon?
Why not indeed.

GRAHAM ARNOLD, the Northern Spirit's dry-speaking coach, made a 'surprise', but most successful, comeback as a player last Friday night at the North Sydney Oval in his team's 1-0 victory over a luckless Marconi Stallions.

The ageing and aching Arnold wanted to retire at the end of last season.



GRAHAM ARNOLD:
Back in the saddle for
the Spirit.

With physical wear and tear sustained over the many years to his shoulder, quads, one knee and both ankles, Arnold believed the time had come to 'run the show', only from the bench.

'Good Oil' at the start of the season strongly disagreed with Arnold and stated to him, that to hang up his boots right now would be

most premature as the Spirit still needed him on the pitch.

Very much needed, even as a sweeper instead of his customary striking role.

He was told that his brain, mouth (organisational experience) and drive from the backline, were all essentially still needed.

Arnold had mixed feelings.

His brain was telling him 'Yes' but his body was screaming a most pleadingly 'No'.

With the Spirit over recent weeks freely plunging to the very bottom of the League ladder, the alarm bells were louder than ever before.

Last Tuesday, Arnold received a phone call at his office.

"Get off your f*#! ar*#, and get back on the pitch", the 65-year-old 'mystery' caller shouted down the line.

Arnold stated to 'Good Oil' after last Friday's most satisfying win against Marconi: "I've always respected this guy's opinion, and he finally swayed me to play tonight."

"It's not a long term solution, but I will play until we are out of the sh*#", dryly smiled the now well satisfied former World Cup striker.

SPEAKING of Arnold, the Northern Spirit's sole and winning goal scored by their tenacious left wingback Phil Moss against the Marconi Stallions last Friday night, was an absolute cracker.

World class in fact.

It was a long ranged 'bomb', one used to see from Leeds United's Scotland international winger, Peter ('Lash') Lorriemor of the 70s.

Positioned this time out wide and on the right, Moss connected with a vicious first-timed right-footed blast from 30 metres on an angle, to explode a lifting, rocketing drive that screamed into the top left

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...



PHIL MOSS: The Northern Spirit's wingback 'Bomber'.

corner of the Marconi goal. What a goal!!

"No, it was no big deal", stated Arnie later to 'Good Oil'.

"Mossy has been doing it all the time at training."

"I've told him many a times - Why don't you bring one of them to a game?", the Spirit's coach reflected.

F.I.F.A. today (Tuesday) will stage in Tokyo, the official draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers which



JOHN BUONAVOGLIA: Shatters the undefeated Brisbane Strikers.

The reason?

For many, many years, North Korea has been at loggerheads with South Korea.

South Korea and Japan will be staging the next World Cup finals.

• • • • •

THE NEWCASTLE BREAKERS last Friday night continued to be the Brisbane Strikers' voodoo team.

As the only undefeated team after Round 9 last

week, John Kosmina's Brisbane Strikers came badly unstuck last Friday night, losing their first match of the season when they went down 2-1 to the Breakers.

Striker John Buonavoglia scored the Breakers' winning goal with cool composure.

Last season, January 31st



JOEL GRIFFITHS:
Power striker at New Children's Hospital, Westmead.

in fact, and at home, Newcastle had defeated Brisbane 1-0, again through a goal from their mobile striker John Buonavoglia.

In the return match up in Brisbane, the Breakers again ran out winners, this time by a 1-2 scoreline with sweeper and skipper Shane Pryce

scoring and Peter Ritchie getting the other.

• • • • •
THE PARRAMATTA POWER has a Japanese player on trial with head coach David Mitchell very closely watching him.

Aged 24, Kensuke Kagami hails from the F.C. Tokyo club and has been training with the Power now for almost two weeks.

In other news concerning the Power, the home game in Round 17 against the Gippsland Falcons which initially had been set down to be played on Friday 21st of January, has been dropped back by 24 hours.

This match will now be played on Saturday 22nd January with kick-off still at the same 7.30pm timeslot.

Meanwhile this week Mitchell will have some of his squad players involved with special promotional activities.

Tomorrow (Wednesday 8th), promising Barney Smith will attend the Northmead High School Sports Presentation Assembly to hand out awards.

On Thursday at 6:00pm, most of the Power squad

will be at the official opening of PJ Gallaghers, previously known as the General Bourke in Parramatta.

On Friday morning, giant stopper Joe Vrkic,

midfielders Steve Eagleton and John Gibson, plus mobile striker Joel Griffiths, will visit the New Children's Hospital at Westmead to attend their Christmas Party.

• • • • •

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• MAIN GAME 7.30PM

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The Matilda's Calendar

SEX SELLS

By Bert van Bedaf

Everybody knows nudity/sex sells. That's why tens of thousands of macho men buy Playboy every month to read the scintillating articles. No doubt, there'll be a few thousand male soccer fans snapping up the revealing Matildas calendar (depicting 12 members of Australia's women's soccer squad in all of Eve's splendor) for the same reasons.

And good on them, (buyers and Matildas) because that's what the calendar's for. There's also the magazine Black + White, which occasionally trades in athletic nudity. Its pictures are considered artistic, but the effect is much the same.

The contemplation of the body and the flesh are part and parcel of the sporting experience. That's why women watch Aussie Rules. It's the tight shorts that reputedly turn them on. That's why we watch athletics, all that rippling muscle and exposed skin. That's why (some) women like boxing - all that testosterone being punched to a pulp, sweat and blood flying about, all that black and white heat being generated.

And there's another reason why from Jane Fleming to (Matildas captain) Alison Forman, women have stripped for their sport. It's the most effective way of attracting attention and gaining sponsorship. It also says a lot about how society operates, how the dollars roll, how the

media reacts - on which side of the cheek or breast the money butters best.

Since Fleming's Golden Girls calendar, the societal boundaries have been pushed further and the points of reference have been set wider, but always viewed from a specific perspective. Societal norms, matters concerning perceived decency and male attitudes rule general comment. For the envelope to be pushed there has to be a starting point and preferably a follow up. The Matildas have followed through and by all accounts they have scored a scorcher of a goal.

The calendar's first print run of 15,000 has already sold out. Now that the Australian Women's Soccer Association and the Australian Olympic Committee have settled their copyright differences by removing the words "2000 Olympic" from future reprints, another print run of 30,000 is already in the making in time for Christmas shopping.

From the moment the calendar splashed itself across the local media, the ripples have widened worldwide. CNN revealed the Matildas to the world and the largest website bookseller, US company Amazon.com, wants global distribution rights of the hot calendar. With a retail price of just under \$25, a dollar out of each sale will go towards the Matildas, who will represent Australia at the Olympics in Sydney next year.

"We did this to raise the profile of the sport and the team," AWS chief executive Warren Fisher explained.

"This is all about boosting our profile,

that of the team and our sport," Forman said.

"I'm proud of what I've done. I'm happy with it," declared Matildas striker Katrina Boyd after viewing her full frontal.

"I have no problem with the nudity. In the photos we are great athletes with great bodies," Boyd said.

Former Matildas player Moya Dodd was also positive about the calendar strip. "Well done. You are no less of a soccer player for being more of a sex symbol," she wrote in the Sydney press.

There were few words of discontent. "It's sad that sports women have to undertake this kind of promotion, because they don't get the recognition they deserve through their sporting achievement," the new Minister for Women's Affairs in Victoria, Ms Sherryl Garbutt, said.

A letter writer in Adelaide expressed similar sentiments. "It is a sad sign of the times when young athletic girls need to put together a calendar of themselves naked to promote their sport."

The Matildas continue their pre-Olympic preparation against world champion USA, the Czech Republic and Sweden in Australia in January. There should be at least 30,000 keen spectators at each game, calendar tucked under their arm, seeking autographs. Let's hope the current, bare skin publicity will be matched by the equivalent number of spectators eagerly pushing their way through the turnstiles.

PUBLISHER SLAMS SOCCER AUSTRALIA

By Bert van Bedaf

Melbourne marketing man and soccer fan Ettore Flacco slammed Soccer Australia for ignoring the launch of the now world-famous Matildas calendar in Sydney last week.

A director of Prime Publishing, publisher of the controversial calendar, Flacco said, "Not one member of the Soccer Australia board turned up," although all of them had been invited.

"They did not even have the decency to give us a yes or no reply, or even a word of congratulations," Flacco said.

"It is appalling. This is the biggest launch I've witnessed. The media is coming from everywhere. The world is talking about the Matildas. CNN did a story. Sports Illustrated wants to purchase some of the photographs. It has been so busy. The phone hasn't stopped ringing.

"Whether it is pride or envy, Soccer Australia ignored it (the launch), as if nothing had happened. If this is what Soccer Australia is all about,

that's probably why they're getting nowhere. If that's what they understand about marketing, soccer is in disarray," the outspoken publisher said.



"This is all about boosting our profile"

MORE MATILDAS NEWS ON PAGE 22

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE PRESTON NAME COACH

By Bert van Bedaf

Victorian Premier League club Preston Lions has opted for an overseas coach ahead of Warren Spink as player-coach.

Spink was a front runner, but he wanted to strengthen the squad by buying several players. Captain Chris Emsovski has joined former VPL champion Bulleen and several other key players are expected to leave the

Lions.

Preston wants to implement a youth policy next season.

"We couldn't agree on terms," Preston president George Nesterovski said of the Spink negotiations.

"Preston will be 20 per cent better than last season with a young generation of players. We are confident of the abilities of our new, professional coach."

Preston appointed Dragan Blazeski as successor to Vlado Vanis, who has gone to the

national league club Melbourne Knights.

A stopper/defender, Blazeski played for Preston in the national league during the 1978/79 season. The 47-year-old Macedonian played for Ohrid and Zastava in the Macedonian league during the 1960s and 70s.

He coached first division clubs Ohrid and Napredok, as well as Bratstvo in the second division and Majdenpek. His last coaching job was with Napredok. He arrived in Melbourne on December 7.



Warren Spink: Couldn't agree on terms.

NSWSF

SUPER LEAGUE EARLY START

By John Economos

THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION this season will kick off its newly expanded 14 team competition next month with full details expected to be released today (Tuesday) at a special season launch-luncheon being staged at the scenic Vieri's Italian Restaurant at Sydney's picturesque Darling Harbour.

Three teams have been upgraded into the Super League for the coming season.

Last season the Super League



Peter Preston: Central Coast's 1999 'Player of the Year'.

competition comprised 12 teams which saw Blacktown City win the Grand Final over the Parramatta Eagles.

Coach Of The Year John Turner took out the Minor Championship by guiding Bonnyrigg White Eagles first past the post.

The three new teams promoted into the newly expanded Super League are Manly Warringah, St George and the Penrith Panthers.

Relegated from last season's Super League competition was Ryde City.

The new season has been scheduled to blast off on January 7th and 8th.

By John Economos

SOCCER AUSTRALIA is already bracing itself for some reactionary turbulence that it expects to follow after the release sometime later this week of a documented report specifying which clubs will be dropped from participating in next season's slimmed down National Soccer League.

The six Member Board of Commissioners met last week and again over the weekend but failed to unanimously endorse which clubs should be expelled.

At least one of the Commissioners is understood to be almost totally against any axing to take place at all.

Rumours over the weekend rapidly leaked out that the now 16 Member club National League would be slashed down to just 12 teams.

However the initial recommendation in the previously prepared SPIC report only makes reference to a minimum of 10 with a maximum of 14 clubs to participate in the National League.

A high ranking Soccer official when contacted last night

by ABSW, stated: "I personally am totally against any immediate reduction of Member clubs in our National League."

"The final report and decision should be out possibly by the end of this week."

"It's going to be a tough call."

Soccer Australia's Chief Executive Officer Mr David Woolley and the NSL, have outlined a document specifying the criteria for admission into next season's reduced National League.

As well, a second division national league is expected to



be introduced next season.

Another Soccer official when contacted, stated to ABSW: "I have never liked talking about how many clubs should be in the League."

"Soccer is about people, and whilst we must broaden our base on the one hand, we have to remain loyal to people that over the years have been dedicated to our code."

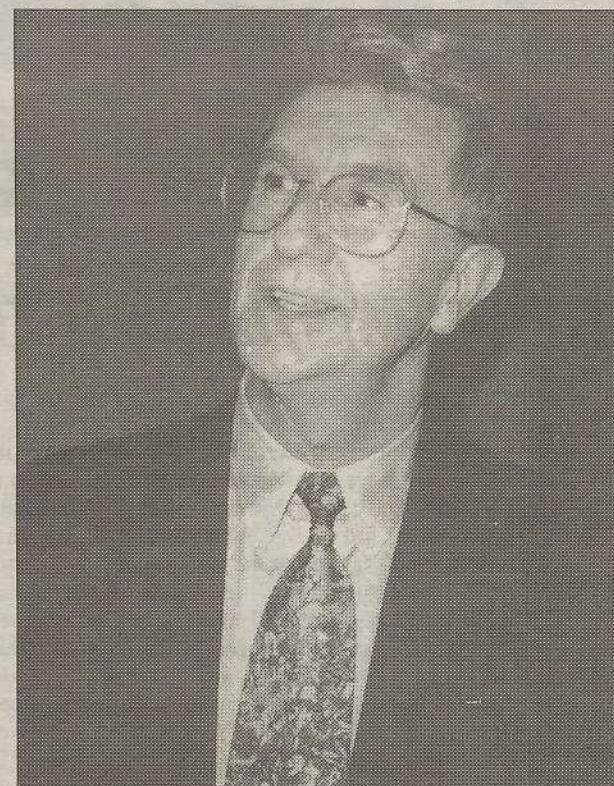
"Now we are trying to diminish the teams in the League."

"It's not a question of just quality, as we are still a developing nation."

"Survival is the case everywhere in the world."

"For me, a 16 team League is reasonable and equally well spread over a regional basis."

"As far as I'm concerned, no changes should be made to the composition of the League whatsoever," ended the official



David Woolley: Soccer Australia's C.E.O.

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

ALL ABOARD



MAINSTREAM MEDIA AND THEIR SELECTIVE PATRIOTISM

By Ross Musso*

The last thing we want to be considered to be doing is merely existing to bash the media.

Sure we have been critical of them in the past, and undoubtedly will have reason to do so in the future, however, the events of last fortnight's snubbing of our Socceroos still aggravates the average football disciple.

The Gold, Silver & Bronze medals for the 'Let's Give Them A Kick In The Guts While They're Down' Award just has to go to the Seven network.

The so-called soccer and, Olympic network saw fit to 'flick-pass' the previously advertised Socceroos match against Brazil from the 9.30pm timeslot to the 'Dracula' time of 11.20pm.

Despite the mass of conspiracy theories

out there about the reasoning for this programming decision, it must surely be considered a poor choice, and one that we sincerely hope they have since regretted.

Radio 2UE's 'Sports Today' program announced that they had received numerous calls from irate fans about the late change in Seven's programming switch, as indeed did our very own football office and numerous other clubs in the League.

Our e-mail box was inundated with angry supporters expressing their disgust, so obviously many people were annoyed at the total disrespect the network showed our National team and sport.

The question however beckons: Did these same people also contact the station to issue their protest?

This folks, is the only thing that will possibly make them pay attention — Public Demand. Get on the phones, write letters and e-mail them, get in their faces

and show just how many of us are out here.

To exasperate the insult of this television snub, not to mention the numerous other non-football journalists' tirades at our sport; as soon as the World Cup rolls around, these very same 'Soap Box' critics will rise again.

This time however, their manner will be total and unashamed jingoism, proudly proclaiming the virtues of our Socceroos and Australian Soccer.

Mark these words, you'll also read about how unfair FIFA treat us, the magnitude of the sport globally and the awe inspiring passion that only real football can bestow to an audience.

All sorts of facts and figures will be regurgitated with monotonous regularity by the 'nouveau' football experts, and National League club's football offices will be inundated with telephone calls

from ignorant journalists wanting information on everything football related. In other words, the bandwagon will again be overflowing.

We'll all bend over backwards to assist of course, just as the least popular kid at school jumps at the chance to have a dance with the 'cool kids' at the school disco.

We all live in hope that once we reach our 'Holy Grail' (World Cup qualification), then these 'cool kids' will actually want to dance with us, even if they have another choice — but will they?

One of the biggest television hits of 1999 was a show about a group of animals whose use-by date had well and truly expired, with the narration belonging to another time.

Not an unreasonable comparison of the actions of some media organisations and individuals. It seems that we are indeed

still 'Walking with Dinosaurs.'

These is NO fear of negative repercussions however, as I'm certain that the "T-Rex's" in question don't even know what matches are to be played in the Australian National Soccer League in any given week. Bon Appetite!

This article was re-printed courtesy of Ross Musso of Club Marconi and the official Club Marconi match programme dated Sunday 28th November.

The article was printed under the banner "Walking with dinosaurs."

Ross Musso is the Assistant Football Manager for Club Marconi.

MEDIA RATES WORLD GAME

By Bert van Bedaf

IT IS nothing short of intriguing how after a successful soccer burst, the doomsayers and the detractors crawl out of the woodwork and on to their soapboxes crying soccer still has 'a long way to go yet' or 'is no good whatsoever.'

In reasonably quick succession the Socceroos have played an All-Star international team (in Sydney) as well as Manchester United and an Olympic Brazil side, both in Melbourne and Sydney.

Despite all the well-documented problems surrounding the availability or absence of either international or Australian stars, soccer as a world sport has demonstrated it can be a popular crowd puller, whether on a pay-basis or for free as was the case with Brazil.

An attendance of nearly 80,000 people at the MCG, almost as many as at the Iran match two years ago, goes to show soccer is a force. So much so that it quickly prompted a rather defensive headline, "It's no theory, footy is better."

It concerned a column, called Hindsight, by Fairfax writer Richard Hinds. In the Sunday Age (21/11) the piece was given the "footy" headline.

The day before in the Sydney Morning Herald, the same story was published under the banner, "Hamburglar, colonisation and the world game theory."

The "colonisation" bit is worth noting. The column's theory goes, "soccer is the great sporting coloniser".

"It has met resistance in very few places - among them the US, Australia, and until recently, Ireland.

These countries have one thing in common. They have a better code of football."

One can't be sure gridiron (US), Australian Rules or Gaelic football (Ireland) are "better codes". They are certainly different and can count on a parochial following. But there's also another way of looking at this phenomenon.

Melbourne's La Trobe University academic, Dr Bill Murray, who has written extensively on soccer, observed; "Soccer is the most popular game in the world, except in the former English speaking colonies."

He cited the West Indies, Pakistan, India, US, Canada, New Zealand, ("white") South Africa and Australia, "where there are other forms of football (including rugby union)" — or other sports, such as cricket and hockey.

Typically, these sports are upper class sports, played by the colonial elite and introduced to the

colonised populace. They were part of a means of joining a privileged class. In most cases one needed to be white and enjoy a private schooling.

Soccer, or football, was a working class sport, not something the British elite was about to export. Hence the colonised populations developed their own football codes — possibly also the poorer codes, not only because they became the working people's game, but also because they offer no path towards an international goal or career.

Meanwhile, the working class British expatriates moving to Italia or South America brought their football with them, helping to establish such well-known clubs as AC Milan in Italy or Racing Club in Argentina.

Sports other than Australian Rules are often called "minority sports".

As one enthusiastic letter writer recently remarked in part, "Let's face facts. Soccer in this country is a minor sport. Who cares, besides a few migrants, that the game is big Europe?"

But it is not just Australia or Europe who matter.

Whether it is soccer, rugby, hockey, basketball, bowls, baseball, netball — it is these so-called minority or minor sports that offer the team-oriented athlete a global perspective and the chance to win world championships against sizeable international competition.

Australia has world champions in rugby, hockey, netball and world beaters in baseball, but no world shattering team in Australian Rules football. The only Mount Everest for Australian Rules football is the MCG — and it's easy to climb, because it is there.

Australian soccer has struggled against great odds to be in the top 70 out of hundreds of soccer nations worldwide. The Socceroos qualified for the World Cup in Germany in 1974. The Olyroos reached the Olympic semi-finals in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992.

The Young Socceroos made their semi's in 1993 in Australia and in 1991 in Portugal and now the Joeys (U17s) qualified for the World Cup Final in New Zealand. The Australian women's team, the Matildas, has participated at World Cup level.

This also displays another important point. Soccer not only offers international involvement from a young age onwards, it also offers the same opportunities to both sexes.

There are no barriers in soccer. It is an international sport that is all-embracing, uniting people of all nations, race and religion with a simple yet engrossing game involving two teams of 11 players and a round ball.



"Let's face facts. Soccer in this country is a minor sport."

FORMER JOEY AGOSTINO SEEKS SOCCEROO GLORY

By Allan Crisp

Outstanding performances for club and country have rocketed Paul Agostino into prime contention to become the key Socceroo striking partner for Mark Viduka.

Agostino delivered a firm message to national coach Frank Farina with his two goals against Brazil at the MCG and the Adelaide-born forward carried that form into his club football with German Bundesliga club 1860 Munich.

Blessed with the natural instincts of a true predator, Agostino figured prominently in an historic victory on his return to Germany when 1860 toppled eternal rivals Bayern Munich 1-0.

Agostino twice thumped shots against the crossbar to set the stage for 1860's first derby win over Bayern in 22 years of frustrating failure.

It was left to German Under 21 international Thomas Riedl to net the winner five minutes from the final whistle and spark scenes fitting for such a drought breaking occasion.

While competing in an Under 17 World Cup final carries a degree of instant fame, there are no guarantees of massive fortunes.

Our current crop of young champions can confidently accept Agostino as a shining example of what can be achieved through hard work and persistence.

Agostino has been there and done that, having fought his way through the natural progression of Under 17, Youth Socceroo and senior Australian selection.

Seven years ago he burst into international prominence when he scored a debut hat-trick for the Joeys against Mexico during the World Cup finals in Italy.

At 17, he was the youngest of the Youth Socceroo squad, but by that time, he was not unaccustomed to playing outside his age group.

He then qualified as a trailblazer, being the one Under 20 Australian player, who already was a seasoned professional with Swiss club Berne Young Boys.

Agostino made his senior debut for South Australian State League club Salisbury United as a tender 14-year old in a Federation Cup fixture against Seaford.

He came off the bench in the final 10 minutes and scored, beginning a remarkable "beginner's luck" sequence which he continued when he netted for



Paul Agostino: recently lined-up for the Socceroos against Brazil.

West Adelaide in his first derby against Adelaide City for a 1-0 win.

That great success came hot on the heels of his initial National Soccer League debut goal against Victorian outfit Preston.

Incredibly, the boy among men netted six goals from his first 17 national league appearances.

Agostino's professional career began later that year with Young Boys before the gifted striker widened his horizons in a three-year stint with English club Bristol City.

The high point arrived in 1997 when he joined 1860 Munich, but the inevitable low trough came when he was shunned by Terry Venables for the World Cup qualifiers against Iran.

Venables did acknowledge Agostino by choosing him in a Socceroo training squad exclusive for overseas based players who assembled in England, but was not able to fulfil his greatest desire of continuing to play for his country.

Venables did acknowledge Agostino by choosing him in a Socceroo training squad exclusive for overseas based players who assembled in England, but bitter disappointment followed when the youngster was not able to fulfil his greatest desire of continuing to play for his country.

Nostalgic browsing among videos recall some

great Agostino strikes with the superb horizontal diving header for the Youth Socceroos against Uruguay a brilliant stand-out.

Agostino enjoyed the experience of playing alongside "V Bomber" Viduka in Melbourne.

"We seemed to run off each other pretty well and quickly got to understand each other's style of play," said Agostino.

Let's hope the Viduka-Agostino partnership is allowed to blossom further in the not too distant future.

The games against Chile would present an ideal opportunity for the duo to develop their deadly association.

Allan Crisp can be heard on Adelaide Radio 5RPH with John Perin and Robbie Propplestone on Tuesdays from 7.30am-9am.

BROOKS BOUNCES BACK

By Allan Crisp

Former Adelaide Force and Wollongong Wolves striker Michael Brooks has returned to the South Australian Premier League club Blue Eagles.

The prolific scorer and Sergio Melta Medal winner with the White City Woodville heads a significant list of new signings for the ambitious club.



player, Brad Armour will join Premier League champions Cumberland Foxes, while Michael Pirone and Jamie Perin will link up with the Croydon Kings at Polonia Reserve.

□ □ □ □

Michael Garcia has returned to Perth after an unsuccessful bid to join Adelaide Force.

Zoran Matic, coach of the Force, said he was unaware that Garcia was a married man with a child when he first invited the midfielder to train.

"There would be unexpected expenses in signing Garcia," Matic said.

Meanwhile, Force is awaiting the arrival of a Yugoslav defender. "He says he's a sweeper," Matic said.

Another ex-Adelaide Force



Michael Brooks

Hurstville City Minotaurs SC

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIDUKA BEST IN EUROPE?

Dear Sir,

Frank Farina must have been talking in his sleep when he said Mark Viduka is the best striker in Europe. He would be lucky to get a place on the bench at places like Tottenham, Arsenal, Chelsea or Leeds. But it is granted that he plays for Celtic but the Scotland Premier League is not in the same class as the English Premier League. Rangers or Celtic would be lucky to finish in the top 10.

Soccer Fan,
Hampton Park.

zzz...zzz...zzz...zzz...sorry, I must have dozed off as well. You could have a point, but how many strikers do you know that have been 'best on the park' against Brazil? Maybe Farina wasn't asleep after all. - Ed



Mark Viduka: Farina's best.

Send letters to Australian and British Soccer Weekly

PO Box 155

Marrickville NSW 2204 or fax (02) 9550 9332
or e-mail to: soccerweekly@hotmail.com

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Sydney or Melbourne?

Dear Sir,

There are many people now saying that the World Cup qualifying game against the fifth placed South American team should be played in Melbourne and not Sydney on the strength of the 80,000 who attended the recent Brazil game at the MCG, against Sydney's 50,000 at Stadium Australia.

I beg to differ because of the different circumstances between the two games. Provided we get past the Kiwi's I think it should still be in Sydney, provided the 110,000 seats are still available. If not and it's been reduced to 80,000 seats then it becomes a toss up, depending on the crowd figures next year with the Olympics.

To put both crowd figures into perspective, the Sydney public only had 36 hours notice of free tickets to the game. Then only 25,000 were made available, with no entry without a ticket. Add to that an extremely hot November afternoon, which was beach weather then you can see the difference.

In Melbourne it was a free for all with no tickets required or needed, plus it was played in the

cool of the evening as well.

It's too early to make that decision, but I would definitely lean towards Sydney at this stage, for no matter which South American country is involved, even Peru or Venezuela, a \$10 million plus gate beckons at Stadium Australia for Soccer Australia if 110,000 seats are still available.

They could charge \$250 a ticket for Premium seats, and \$60 to \$80 for the cheapest ones behind the goalposts, they would still sell out.

People would come from all around the country for that once-in-a-lifetime event that happens only once every four years in this country. I for one certainly can't wait for that day to come around in about two years time.

Dominic Scullino
Nerang, QLD.
M.C.G. or Stadium

Australia? Tough call.
Maybe the qualifier can have three legs? One at

3pm, one at 7.30pm and the other in South America. Otherwise they could hold the match halfway between Sydney and Melbourne, say...Bruce Stadium maybe!! - Ed



2002
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SECOND RATE SOCCEROOS

Dear Sir,

Even with the best will in the world nobody should ever underestimate the difficulties in trying to promote the cause of soccer in Australia.

A history of nearly 120 years of disastrous and sometimes heroic failure is daunting. I equate the task with trying to climb Mr Everest in handcuffs. However even the darkest clouds have a silver lining somewhere.

The poor performance of the Socceroos in Sydney has been blown out of all proportion if you take into account the calibre of the team that actually took the field.

Despite being made up overwhelmingly of overseas based players this was far from the best Socceroo team selection.

Agostino and Johnson showed exactly why they have never been seriously considered for the Socceroos previously. Muscat is nothing more than a very forceful thug.

For Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar, playing for Rangers in the poorly rated Scottish League is as good as it gets. Both Corica and Okon's highly promising careers have been cruelly curtailed by crippling injuries.

Players like Wehrman, Emerton, Laybutt, Foxe, and Colosimo amongst others are the future for the Socceroos. Of course those top line overseas based players are automatic selections if and when available.

However, many other overseas based players best described as "journeymen" or those whose fitness is suspect should have to prove their worth to wear the Socceroo shirt in the same way as the best local players do.

Disastrous as the whole Brazil tour has been OZ soccer will survive bruised and battered once again as history shows. The powers that be in International Football have decreed that for the time being OZ soccer's primary role is to be a player nursery of some value for various leagues in traditional soccer countries which will carry on unaffected.

Some pundits may fear that this latest debacle will effect Australia's chances of qualifying for Japan/Korea 2002. I am hoping that the lessons learnt will actually benefit our World Cup campaign for 2002.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.

Playing for your country is the ultimate in any sporting arena. I just can't imagine any sporting player in any sport not giving their all for Australia. Bottom line is...if you're selected - you're good enough! - Ed

GIPPSLAND FANS NEEDED

Dear Sir,

G'day, my name is Ben Alexander, I am 16 years old, and I am a one-eyed Gippsland Falcons supporter. Anyway I was wondering, is there an official Gippsland Falcons website and what is the address?

I am the President of the Gippsland Falcons official Melbourne group, and I am looking for more members.

Love your work, go the Mighty Falcons.

Ben Alexander

Ben, Gippsland don't have an official website but I am told they are working on one as we speak. It will be up and running early in the new year. Good onya Ben! You should be proud of yourself. Keep it up. - Ed

Ben can be contacted c/o

Ben Alexander

5 Bendigo St, Cheltenham, Vic 3192

E-mail is clintonking40@hotmail.com

JOEYS ARE WORLD CLASS

Dear Sir,

Congratulations Joeys!

Australia should be very proud of this team.

Just to qualify and then reach the final of a World Cup is an achievement. In all the games they played, they were all heart.

Soccer is one of the few "world" competitions and they handled the qualifications with style and courage.

Even though the final result was disappointing, we should throw our hats in the air and shout praise for a job very, very well done.

Beryl & Juan Martinez

You're absolutely right! Make sure you don't forget any of those young guy's names. They will win the next U/20 World Cup. You read it here first. - Ed

PLAYER PROFILE

ABSW STAR PROFILE

ALISTAIR EDWARDS

Name: Alistair Edwards
 Current club: Perth Glory
 Date of Birth: 21 June 1968
 Place: Whyalla, South Australia
 Marital Status: Married (Gracie), three children
 Playing position: Striker
 Nickname: 'Bundy'
 Previous clubs: Kwinana United (WA), Glasgow Rangers (Scot.), Sydney Olympic, Singapore FA, Johor FA, Selangor FA, Sarawak FA (Malaysia), Millwall (Eng.)
 Honours: WA U12 - senior State teams, Young Socceroos, Socceroos
 Favourite local player: David Barrett (Parramatta Power)
 Favourite Overseas player: Paul Okon (Lazio - Serie A)
 Favourite Overseas club: Glasgow Rangers
 Favourite Coach/es: Ron Smith, Eddie Thomson, Jim Moodie
 Most memorable game/s: 1990 NSL Grand Final Sydney Olympic v Marconi. Olympic's first (and only) championship and I scored a goal.
 FA Cup game Millwall v Arsenal. The atmosphere in that game was terrific.
 Favourite food: Asian and Italian
 Best movie: My Best Friends Wedding
 Hobbies: Computer, golf, bike riding with kids
 Alternative to being a soccer player: In soccer administration.

Person you would like to meet:
 Favourite restaurant:
 Ambitions for the next two years:

Madonna
 My wife's kitchen
 Win a championship with Perth Glory

Sporting heroes:
 male Barry Cable, Robert De Castella, Dennis Lillee, Sebastian Coe, Luc Longley, Diego Maradona
 Sporting heroes:
 female Steffi Graf, Samantha Riley, Raelene Boyle, Dawn Fraser, Shane Gould.

Personal sponsor: Lotto

Alistair Edwards scored on his Perth Glory debut against Adelaide Sharks in February 1999 and went on to play a major role in his team qualifying for their first finals series last season.

In total, Edwards has featured in four finals campaigns, three with Sydney Olympic. He is an all round left-footed forward, good in the air and can create as well as score quality goals.

He clocked up his 100th NSL appearance against Canberra Cosmos in October (currently 104 at 5/12/99 — 24 with Glory) and has amassed 22 (12) goals. Apart from soccer, Edwards showed plenty of potential as an athlete, representing the WA schoolboys on a number of occasions.

Although he is still highly regarded in Asia where he played for Singapore, Johor, Selangor and Sarawak, Edwards says it's time to stay put and believes Perth is the place to watch his kids grow up.

And when he eventually hangs up his boots, the former Socceroo is keen to remain in the sport, having half-completed a Masters Degree in Sport Management.



Alistair Edwards: Perth the place to be.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

WOLVES ANNOUNCE \$100,000 SPONSOR

The Wolves announced this week a combined sponsorship deal worth in excess of \$100,000 — a major boost to soccer.

The companies involved are a world-known Internet side Kidz.net and national known hardware firm Unanderra Hardware Man. Wolves chairman Doug Symes is very impressed with both companies' interest in the club, obviously believing the Wolves have something going for them and the local soccer fans.

Kidz.net is known all over the world for its Internet site for producing entertainment and education for kids from four years to 16 years.

The Wolves will become part of the network.

Unanderra Hardware Man is one of the largest hardware outlets in NSW.

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Goalie Les Pogliacomi played his 50th game with the Wolves against the Melbourne Knights. The former youth international made his mark with Marconi before having a season with Adelaide City and joining the Wolves.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

AUCKLAND KINGZ
GIPPSLAND

1

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2
BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

By Greg Danvers

Auckland Kingz missed a golden chance to cement a mid-table national league position when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Gippsland Falcons at North Stadium.

With the fanfare and sparkle of the recent under 17 world championships sadly lacking,

the match offered little more than a spectacle before a mediocre crowd of 000.

The home side led 1-0 at the break following a goal post header from Robbie Middleby but allowed the visitors to level soon after the break through the speedy Brian MacNicol.

Local referee Derek Rugg helped contribute to a lack lustre performance from both sides stopping play on numerous occasions although only three players were booked.

Neither side showed much imagination in attack and both were guilty of failing to string passes together in a scrappy affair.

Among Rugg's bookings were soft cards to Kingz players Che Bunce and Middleby while the yellow card handed to Gippsland defender Manny Gotis was deserved.

Auckland took an early lead in the 16th minute after some clever thinking from Harry Ngata.

Ngata summed up the situation pushing a quick-free kick to Dino Menillo whose pinpoint cross was headed home by Middleby at the far post.

Gippsland missed a chance to equalise in the 34th minute when a free running MacNicol blasted past Kingz keeper Jason Batty onto the crossbar.

Gippsland had to wait until five minutes after the break before grabbing the equaliser.

Kingz forward Fred De Jong surprised Gippsland keeper Bojo Jevdjovic with a snap shot but his quick clearance enabled the visitors to catch the homeside on the break.

MacNicol pounced for the equaliser at the far post with Auckland's defenders in disarray.

Auckland went close to snatching back the lead in the 62nd minute from a short corner.

Chris Jackson for the Kingz snapped a shot from nothing but quick reflexes from Jevdjovic deflected the shot wide for a corner.

The Kingz had the best of the chances for the latter stages but some poor finishing let the home side down badly and with it three valuable points.



Robbie Middleby:
Headed the Kingz in front

Competition leaders Brisbane Strikers nine match unbeaten run came to an abrupt end at the Breakers Stadium last Friday night when Newcastle Breakers ran out 2-1 winners in front of 5027 very happy supporters.

John Kosmina, current Brisbane and former Newcastle coach, must rate the Hunter Valley as his bogey area as he had a dismal record as coach of Newcastle and has been beaten twice, at Breakers Stadium, since taking over as Strikers mentor.

But readers of the ABSW may never know his feelings as once again, same as last year, Kosmina failed to appear at the post match Press conference and was not to be seen anywhere after.

On the pitch the Breakers from the start looked smart and certainly were fired up for a fighting match and determined to take the points. Something they had failed to do at home so far this season.

Andy Roberts, sacked by then Breakers coach Kosmina in 1997, had a point to prove and was eager not only in defence but ready to attack at every opportunity.

Six minutes into the match John Buonavoglia released Roberts down the left side and his shot, from just outside the box, skinned over the bar.

Breakers had several more chances in the next 10 minutes but were wide of target.

The Strikers had two real chances to take the lead when Nick Meredith fired a left footer past the far post in the 20th minute and Wade Baldwin's shot on goal sailed over the bar 16 minutes later.

Roberts headed home a team confidence booster, his first since 1993, in the 45th minute. Andy Roberts had worked down the right and battled doggedly to keep possession but was forced to pass back finding Glenn Moore.

Moore, playing at sweeper, found Brad Wiecek on the left who carried the ball forward and delivered a great cross into the box.

Roberts steamed through into the box to head the ball past the Brisbane 'keeper Clint Bolton. Roberts' celebration included a spur-of-the-moment 'get that up you salute' to former coach Kosmina.

Newcastle left the field at half-time 1-0 leaders much to the delight of the home crowd.

Brisbane will rue a golden opportunity two minutes into the second half when Stuart McLaren missed a sitter, his header hitting the post with Bob Catlin cleaning up. There had been several chances for Brisbane to score in the goal mouth scramble.

Four minutes later Moore deflected, off the side of his head, a Meredith long throw into his own net, at the near post, to give Brisbane a sniff of a draw or even a win but the grit and determination of the home side shone through in the end.

Buonavoglia scored seven minutes later, his fifth of the season and 11th in his short NSL career, after Damien Smith defused a Brisbane attacking raid.

Brisbane had broke from a Newcastle set piece, from a Meredith crude tackle on Buonavoglia, that they had every right to convert given they had four on two.

Damien Smith calmly dispossessed the advancing Paul Foster and put a perfectly weighted ball through for Harper on the far right. Harper squared the ball for Buonavoglia who was left with only the Bolton to beat.

'Jockey' as he is affectionately known in Newcastle rounded Bolton and tapped the ball into an open goal, which sent the crowd into raptures and a well earnt 2-1 lead.

"It was a character win," Newcastle Breakers coach Lee Sterrey said after the match.

"It just shows what we've had in this room all along. I'll stick by what I've got; I know there is some character in the room and they will deliver the goods.

"Credit to Brisbane they're a good football side. In the first half there a couple of times they put us under a lot of pressure from set pieces and we knew they would get a lot of crosses in (to the box) and it was a matter of us dealing with that and we did."

"I've got a belief in the three big men that I've got at the back. Glenn Sprod is a bit on the short side but he reads it good and then he's our distribution to come out of there."

Sprod, replaced by Damien Smith at half-time, injured a knee that not expected to see him miss the Parramatta Power match on Friday.

"It is a bit sore but more old age than anything else," Sprod said on Friday night.

CARLTON
CANBERRA COSMOS

5

1

By Bert van Bedaf

A n Alex Moreira hat-trick in the second half helped Carlton to a 5-1 victory over a 10-men Canberra Cosmos to regroup from two losses in a row.

It was Carlton's equal best victory margin, having beaten Marconi 4-0 in round 3.

Cosmos had David Winnie sent off in the second half when the score was 2-0, but the early chances went to Canberra.

"We were quite convincing tonight," A pleased Carlton coach Stuart Munro said.

"Our resources are stretched at the moment (with six senior players out), but we coped quite well. We got a bit sloppy in the second half and they (Canberra) got a goal back, but over all I'm very pleased," he said.

Moreira's hat-trick, his second for the club, came from eight opportunities. "He was a bit down at half time when the score was 1-0, but I told him just to keep going. I told him I don't care if you get 50 chances and you miss 49 of them, one will go in. Moreira kept going. He's a good boy," Munro said.

"We were comfortable until the first goal. When Carlton scored, it took the pressure off them," Canberra coach Tom Sermann said.

When asked whether the seven yellow cards (three to Carlton, and four to Canberra) and the sending off had contributed to the result, Sermann said, "The referee didn't cost us the game. The sending off may have been a bit harsh and there were a lot of yellow cards, but it was a fair result to be frank," he said.

Carlton opened the scoring in the 22nd minute. Cosmos defender Danny Burt fouled Lubo Lapsanski outside the box on an angle. Back from a week's suspension, Carlton's busy midfielder took a short free-kick, leaving captain Andrew Marth to lash the ball into the corner pocket at the near post underneath the body of a startled Cosmos 'keeper Grant Barlow.

Seeking to regain their momentum after losses to Parramatta, 3-1, and Perth, 4-2, Carlton stepped up the pace, tearing into the Cosmos defence.

Moreira atoned for his earlier misdemeanors two minutes into the second half by heading home Carlton's second goal from a Sean Douglas cross. The Blues striker rose to challenge Barlow and out-jumped the 'keeper in the aerial tussle with a looped header.

Diomis denied Moreira a penalty in the 50th minute and, in one of several dubious decisions, gave the striker a yellow card allegedly for diving.

Canberra's fight effectively ended when Diomis red-carded Winnie in the 63rd minute for a crude foul on Marth. Watkins did manage a long-range shot in the 76th minute, but it didn't trouble Dean Anastasiadis and the Blues went on the rampage.



Moreira wasted yet another chance in the 81st, aiming wide after Ange Motsopoulos (on for Markovski in the 74th), before Thompson scored Carlton's third with a cracking shot after some individual brilliance on the left.

Cosmos got their consolation goal through Ivo DeJesus, who caught Anastasiadis off line with a clever shot, but Moreira restored the three-goal deficit with a minute left, running through the Canberra defence and sidefooting past Barlow.

Three minutes into injury time, Lapsanski's through pass put Moreira again clear. This time the talented striker coolly converted to complete his hat-trick and Carlton's rout of a depleted Cosmos.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

By Daniel Giorelando

A scorching 25-metre-goal and some brilliant heroics by goalkeeper John Perosh helped Northern Spirit stumble to their second straight home win as they defeated the Marconi Stallions by 1-0 last Friday night.

In a game that failed to reach any high standards, a sublime 25-metre-shot by Phil Moss was the difference between the two sides, the shot leaving Marconi keeper Michael Turnbull with no chance.

But it was the other keeper in the match, Northern Spirit's John Perosh who was the difference between the two teams. Perosh thwarting everything that the Stallions could throw at him.

The rise of Perosh into the top side has been amazing considering that last year, Perosh played second fiddle to Paul Henderson, and against the Stallions, he vindicated his coach's decision to have him in the side.

Brilliant saves from Marconi captain Brad Maloney and striker Francis Awaritefe both late in the match helped Spirit move off the bottom of the ladder.

Following the match, Northern Spirit player/coach Graham Arnold was grateful to Perosh and the commitment that the young keeper has shown, despite going through some hard times last year.

"Perosh has been fantastic all year and you have to look into why the guy is playing like this," said Arnold.

"He (Perosh) sat on his ass all season last year and didn't play a game, he sat behind Paul Henderson but not once did he drop his head or not once did he want to quit.

"He said when I get my chance I will take it and on his performances so far this season, Perosh has certainly taken his chance with both hands."

But whilst Perosh was brilliant, Marconi had the better of the play, creating the better of the chances. The Stallions were unlucky to go away from North Sydney Oval empty handed, hitting the post three times, twice within a minute late in the second half.

Arnold who only a month ago announced that he would never play again, was grateful to 'Someone' he greatly admires who talked the coach out of any plans of hanging up the boots and telling him to fight for his team.

"Someone who I admire greatly in Australian soccer gave me a call last Tuesday and told me top get my ass on the field and help out the team," Arnold said.

Whilst the involvement of Arnold on the field is a great help, it is not a long-term solution. The player/coach saying that his national duties are not making it any easier mentally as well as physically.

And whilst it was the cool head of Arnold at the back, it was another experienced player, Matt Bingley who ultimately helped decide the outcome of this match.

An inspired run by Matthew Bingley down the left flank left Stallions' defender Chad Gibson in two minds and after getting past him, Bingley laid off a teasing ball which went through the box and past a number of players before finding an unmarked Phil Moss on 30 metres.

His reaction was to send a rocket towards the top left corner of the posts, leaving both the Stallions and many of his teammates stunned.

After the match, Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold was happy for Moss and that wonder strike, "Moss has been dreaming about doing that for his whole life, it was a great strike."

The goal was the injection that an uneventful and unattractive game needed, as Marconi were now forced to chase the game and Spirit would sit back and catch their opponents on the counter.

The goal seemed to wake the Stallions who went on a full out attack, Maloney pulling out a great save from Perosh who tapped over a 35-metre free kick.

Then in the 84th minute, the defining moment of the match as somehow Northern Spirit repelled an onslaught by the Stallions, once again Perosh the savior but this time with the help of his posts.

Defender Mike Smith was unlucky not to score himself, as his 35-metre drive rocketed off the left corner of the posts, the ball falling nicely at the feet of Maloney, who tapped the ball towards goal from inside the 6 yard box only for a blinding save by Perosh.

Marconi made one last raid in the 89th minute, as Francis Awaritefe who was controversially brought down in the box after getting past keeper Perosh, but no action was taken on the incident.

The win for Spirit lifted them off the bottom of the ladder and exacted some revenge for their one-goal loss two weeks ago against the Stallions.

TURN TO PAGE 32 MATCH STATISTICS

THE PRIME MINISTERS CUP

Canberra Cosmos vs Newcastle Breakers

By Graham Cooke

Newcastle Breakers picked up an extra piece of silverware after their 2-1 win over Novell Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium.

The Prime Minister's Cup dates

back to the earliest years of the National Soccer League. It was donated by the then PM, Malcolm Fraser, in the late 1970s as a perpetual trophy to be played for by Canberra and Newcastle.

The cup has had a chequered history. It was originally contested in

one-off pre-season games, alternating between Canberra and Newcastle, but when both sides fell out of the NSL in 1986, competition was discontinued.

Current Soccer Canberra president Steve Doszpot pushed for its reinstatement in the early 1990s for games between Canberra and

Newcastle in the NSW Superleague, but for a few embarrassing weeks the trophy could not be found.

It was eventually located in a shed belonging to a former secretary, and has been contested ever since.

By agreement, the deciding match is now always played at Bruce

Stadium, but although the Prime Minister of the day is asked to present the cup, Fraser remains the only leader who has accepted the invitation.

This time Senate President Margaret Reid, who comes from Canberra, performed the honours.



Newcastle: Celebrations begin.



Glenn Sprod: Newcastle skipper accepts the PM's cup from the honourable senator Margaret Reid. Also pictured is Newcastle chairman David Hall.

COSMOS COACH JOINS UNI

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos assistant coach Tony Brennan plans to 'moonlight' over the winter as team boss of ACT Premier League club University of Canberra because he says, "I just love the work".

"The bottom line is: I can't get enough of coaching," he said.

"I've been doing it for 10 years now on and off, and I want to improve myself."

A National Soccer League star for the old Canberra City side of the early 1980s, he replaces



Tony Brennan: "Can't get enough."

ALL PHOTO'S BY GRAHAM COOKE

former University team boss Rod Lynes, who is planning a spell overseas. Brennan was coaching juniors when he was plucked from obscurity by Rale Rasic to be his assistant at the Cosmos in 1998.

A few months later he was in charge of the team after Rasic's departure, but there was no fairytale ending. Four matches were played and lost — two by the only goal of the game — and he returned to the assistant's role when Tom Sermanni was brought to the club.

He has no regrets. "I learnt things from Rale and now I'm learning from Tom," he said. "I want to continue to do that, but at the same time I also need to put what I've learnt into practice."

"The University is an excellent opportunity. I have had family members study there and I know a few of the players."

"I realise they are hardly one of the glamour sides of the competition, but there is a tremendous enthusiasm and a will to do better, and that's enough for me."

Known as the Clown Prince for some of his off-field antics during his playing days, Brennan believes variety is the spice of life. "My aim is to involve some of the other Cosmos players as guest coaches at the University, just to get a different approach to training," he said.

And the former Papua New Guinean admits to a fantasy: "I want to be coach of the PNG national team and beat the Socceroos in a World Cup qualifier at the Olympic Stadium," he said.

"Well, I can dream, and anyway, I have a much better chance of coaching PNG than I have Australia."

COSMOS RALLY TO EAST TIMOR CAUSE

By Graham Cooke

This may not be the best Christmas the children of East Timor have spent, but Soccer Canberra and the Novell Canberra Cosmos has done their best to ensure the kids of the island nation will be able to play their favourite game over the festive season.

ACT soccer supporters sprang into the breach after an interview between Canberra 2CC radio personality Graham Gilbert and Major Graham Finney, currently serving in East Timor, revealed a chronic shortage of soccer equipment in the ravaged country.



Finney said toys were beginning to flood in "but the kids love soccer, and they are just kicking rags around now".

No longer. A combination of local business, clubs and individuals have already given around 100 balls and other equipment, a bumper collection being made at the most recent home game with Newcastle.

The appeal will close after Friday's game against Sydney Olympic.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2

By Otto Bader

This was not a result expected by the home side even though knowing the Knights came to Brandon Park with nothing to lose but their pride and they showed what team spirit is all about.

The Knights won 2-1 although some could say lucky but they converted their chances while the Wolves lost their way.

The engine room in the midfield did not perform too well but that can be said of other sections.

A soccer game can be cruel towards supporters, players and to the coach. The Wolves lost 1-2 to a gallant Melbourne Knights who had minor chances but utilised both with resounding success.

It was to quote Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos a "diabolical execution in front of the goal", rarely witnessed before. The players know themselves in their own mind that the game could have gone better and should have been won. Opposition coach Vlado Vanis said he would have been happy with one point but to collect three was great even in his two games in charge of the Knights gaining six points from two games is fantastic, indicating his players are far better than their position on the table might suggest.

Both sides played attacking fluent soccer, good to watch, never boring, entertaining throughout the match. None of the teams played bad, both put their heart into it and the lucky one walked away with the spoils. The Knights defended cleverly. Wolves defender George Souris scored his first goal for his team in the NSL, a fine header from a corner kick in the 22nd minute. He should have scored another shortly after.

The game opened at a fast pace and it seemed the Wolves had more possession of the ball. In the fifth minute Wolves keeper Les Pogliacomi had to make his first save from a free kick. From the second corner in the game in the 13th minute Matt Horsley hit the cross bar and minutes later had a free run at goal only to put the ball wide. A top header by giant defender David Cervinski who moved up front on several occasions, just missed the target. In the 32nd minute the Knights put a tremendous free kick over the bar, hit by Ante Kovacevic.

Straight after that the Wolves broke quickly and David Cervinski headed again over the cross bar. The Wolves keeper missed a high cross and the defence cleared the ball off the line, a lucky escape. A great free kick by Knights Adrian Cervinski was saved by Wolves keeper Les Pogliacomi. At the half-time break the Wolves looked comfortably in control.

The second half started with the Knights coming more into the game. The Wollongong side missed chance after chance and the more they tried the worse it got, the ball was not running for them. Scott Chipperfield missed a golden opportunity, Paul Reid hit a shot well saved by the Knights keeper Martin John, David Cervinski managed to hit the ball into the side net from close distance and so on the opportunities were wasted.

The home side made a substitution in the 64th minute with Anthony Surjan coming on for George Souris and in the 70th minute Esala Masi for Saso Petrovski, the coach indicated afterwards he could have changed any one of a number of players with things not going too well.

The Knights equalised in the 68th minute through Ivan Kelic, not as marked by the referee as Alex Kiratzoglou after a scramble in front of goal and then took the lead minutes later when Adrian Cervinski headed in, again after a struggle in the goal area.

The Knights were now looking sharp with the Wolves getting frustrated, running their hearts out but not getting anywhere. For Nick Theodorakopoulos it was an incredible result, very disappointing and leaving him with a tough task to lift the boys' spirit for the next encounter away at Adelaide. The Melbourne Knights went away happy, collecting an unexpected gift.

Hopefully the Wolves find their way and bring the winning form back together with the true supporters which now more than ever have to come out and cheer the team on.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2
ADELAIDE CITY 0

By John Economos

Sydney Olympic with guest player and former Liverpool star Ian Rush making his final appearance, struggled to a 2-0 win over an equally disappointing and lustreless Adelaide City last Saturday night at the heavily sanded Belmore Sports Ground.

Olympic's two second half goals scored by left wingback Chris Kalantzis (56th) and substitute striker Zlatko Arambasic (81st), has now lifted them to sit just one single League point behind championship pace-setters the Brisbane Strikers.

Although Liverpool's former ace-marksman Rush failed to score, he inadvertently assisted in Olympic's opening goal 11 minutes into the second session.

Just inside Adelaide's box, Rush lost control of the ball as it freely ran to goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic. But the custodian tried to clear with his legs and the ball flew square to striker Nick Carle who promptly pumped it back into the box for Kalantzis to hit the target with his first-timed rising shot.

Nine minutes from fulltime, Olympic's quick thinking Pablo Cardozo from halfway, head-kicked on to the right flank and into the path of the galloping Brett Emerton steaming down the line.

Veering slightly into the box, Emerton crossed to the first post where substitute striker Arambasic calmly volleyed into the target.

But Olympic was not that superior as the final scoreline would suggest.

Coach Branko Culina had to reshuffle his lineup which was missing tenacious ball winner Scotty Thomas, out for eight weeks with damaged medial ligaments, plus suspended Kiwi international defender Chris Zorich as well as skipper and most durable central marker Peter Tsekens.

The work load fell heavily on the robust and industrious defensive midfielder Marcus Phillips who excelled and seemed to relish the extra load in the 'engine room'.

Some inexplicable hesitancy plus poor finishing cost the South Australians and former long time aristocrats of Australian Soccer at least two or three goals.

The worst and most fatal scenario came in the 72nd minute when former international Bradley Hassell, for this match pushed up as a striker, glaringly went wide to the left of the target with his header from the back post after receiving a fine cross expertly fired in from the right by midfielder Nick Sabljak.

Had Hassell scored from this point blank range, his goal would have equalised the scoreline at 1-1.

Olympic's stylishly gifted and high scoring striker Pablo Cardozo was dropped back into the midfield for this match as a 'supplier' rather than finisher.

Eight minutes before the break Adelaide's international striker Damian Mori streaked away down the left and crossed to Scottish import Derek Ferguson, but the latter from the edge of the box screwed his shot wide of the target.

In the 40th minute former World Cup striker and Adelaide's playmaker Aurelio Vidmar went narrowly wide of the post from a Hassell corner.

The match was of poor quality from both sides and only came to some life in the later stages. A contributing factor is the poor playing surface at Belmore that seems these days to have almost as much sand under a thin layer of grass as Bondi Beach.

Adding to the farce was a late kick off delayed almost by half an hour as pre-match fireworks debris had to be cleared by hand off the playing area.

Best performers for Olympic were competitive and defensive midfielder Marcus Phillips, central marker Scotty Baillie who played with an injury plus Brett Emerton who showed some flashes of what he's capable of, whilst for a disappointing Adelaide only sweeper Alex Tobin and markers Angelo Costanzo and Michael Cartwright escaped unscathed.

These days playing with very little confidence, Adelaide's latest loss has plunged the 'Black and Whites' to most unfamiliar territory of being clear last on the ladder.

An obviously pleased Olympic coach Branko Culina stated after the match: "It was a good result under the circumstances following our last week's away loss (Melbourne Knights). It was not a great game to watch as both teams seemed too cautious."

"I think it was a matter that we took our chances and they (Adelaide) didn't, but it was good to see another win for Ian Rush as well as for our Olympic supporters," Culina ended.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
PARRAMATTA POWER 2

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne stormed home to beat a ten-men Parramatta Power 4-2 in a second half burst at Bob Jane stadium, bouncing back from a 5-1 drubbing away to Brisbane last week. Parramatta were unlucky not to earn a point.

Scores were 2-1 at half-time and the Sydney side was by no means out of the game.

In fact, they levelled for a second time and seemed headed for what would have been a well-deserved draw. "When the score was 2-2, I thought we were dominating the game, but the third goal did us in," Parramatta coach David Mitchell said afterwards.

"I thought everyone performed well. After the 5-1 loss last week, it would have been easy for us to go into our shell, but we were positive. We came out and played some good football. We're going to be hard to beat in the long run," South coach Ange Postecoglou said.

Mitchell was disappointed not to earn a point. "I'm disappointed, because we should have earned a point. I've got no problems with the penalty. It was strictly by the rules. The player was brought down in the box. But at that time, at 2-2, we were dominating the game. To get a penalty against and have a player sent off, it's a double whammy and it's not easy to come back from that, especially against a team like South Melbourne at home," Mitchell said.

The win lifted South Melbourne above Parramatta in seventh place, giving Power a harder job gaining a finals place.

"Our goal is to make the top six. We have a competitive team, but we're conceding goals too regularly to win the league," Mitchell said.

Billed as the virtual grand final replay, because most of the Parramatta team comprised former Sydney United players, as well as having its former coach David Mitchell move across to Power, the match struggled to live up its reputation in the opening minutes.

Only when South Melbourne snatched the lead with a long-range shot after 20 minutes did the encounter gather speed. Goran Lozanovski took the corner, which Parramatta only half-cleared. Steve Panopoulos had time to control it and blast home with a left-foot shot that left Parramatta keeper Andrew Crews floundering at his left post.

Parramatta powered to an equaliser in the 36th minute with a header by Joel Griffiths. Peter Bennett crossed the ball into the goal mouth from a short corner and Griffiths, left unmarked, sank on his knees to head home from close range.

But South replied after only two minutes with an emphatic strike by John Anastasiadis from a Con Blatsis cross.

The goal led to a player clash of sorts between Jacob Burns and Panopoulos, but referee Matthew Breeze saw nothing into the push and shove that developed.

Playing his 100th NSL game, Michael Curcija should have done better in the 59th minute from a Lozanovski freekick.

His shot fell into the hands of Crews, who immediately released Power on the counter. John Angelucci provided the cross and Mile Sterjovski headed home the equaliser.

But the Power joy was shortlived. Robert Liparoti put John Anastasiadis through in the 62nd minute, forcing Burns to commit a desperate, last-man tackle on the aggressive South striker. Breeze immediately raised the red card, leaving Parramatta a man short with almost half an hour left. Curcija stepped up for the penalty and South's Olyroo put his team in the lead for the third time with a confident spotkick.

Parramatta refused to surrender its attacking flair, with Angelucci (later Townsend after the 77th minute) and Sterjovski sticking to the task.

Sterjovski nearly got Power level again in the 82nd, but with South keeper Milan Udvarcz beaten, Con Blatsis saved the Parra striker's shot off the line.

Vaughan Coveny (on for David Clarkson in the 72nd minute) outpaced defender Michael Santalab (on for Joe Vrkic, who went off with a broken nose in the 80th minute after a clash with Coveny) to seal the match for South. The Kiwi striker did not turn a hair as he powered for goal and blasted South's fourth goal past Crews for the match decider with five minutes left.

Joey's captain Mark Byrnes, 'keeper Matthew Milosevic, defenders Iain Fyfe and Aaron Goulding, midfielder Louis Brain and striker Scott McDonald did a lap of honor in recognition of their outstanding performance at the U17 World Cup in New Zealand a fortnight ago. Fyfe, who missed the vital penalty that cost the Joey's gold, said he was going on trial with Parramatta.

"Everyone performed so well," Fyfe said reliving the Joey's tour de force in reaching the final. "We are only now starting to realise how well we've done."

"There was a lot pressure, but I thought we handled it pretty well."

SYDNEY UNITED 0
PERTH GLORY 1

By Joe Russo

It was a Bobby Despotovski goal in the 47th minute that sealed Perth Glory's away win at Edensor Park over Sydney United.

Glory, without key men Kasey Wehrman and Troy Halpin, certainly didn't extend themselves beyond the necessary as they disposed of their opponents.

Coach Bernd Stange must have been pleased with his troops, however, the three points that they took home must have been even more pleasing.

Sydney United's coach David Ratcliffe has a lot of work to do if this performance is to be used a gauge. They now languish precariously in the bottom echelons of the table and they surely must now only be making up the numbers in this year's competition.

The goal was the story of the game. It was far too easy for Perth and far too elementary of an error by the home side.

Con Boutsianis with a delightful cross found Despotovski dangerously loitering in the penalty box and all he had to do was put the ball into the back of the net with his header.

As for the Sydney United's marking in this instance, well, any comment other than poor, would be way off the mark.

In the 15th minute a free kick from just outside the area by Boutsianis forced Hughes into an excellent save down low to his left. In the 22nd, a Despotovski cross found Miller in the penalty area, however, his weak header didn't seriously trouble the keeper.

The one way match continued in the 24th minute when Despotovski slammed his shot against the crossbar. More Glory in the 35th when an attempted shot by Boutsianis was just wide.

Here is one player that seems to have found a new lease of life. Boutsianis, sporting a new look ginger hairstyle, certainly was heavily involved in this game.

Sydney United responded in the 42nd minute with Kane Rastall who left Gareth Naven standing, but his final shot was too weak and Jason Petkovic, back in the National League, had little trouble.

Just before the half-time interval Despotovski with an open goal missed an absolute sitter for the Glory. There was certainly a new lease of life into the game now and a goal wasn't long coming. Soon after the re-start, Despotovski sealed the issue.

More of Perth Glory in 52nd minute with Scott Miller's volley just wide but this time United didn't sit back and watch. A lethal free kick from just outside the box by Tom Pondeljak careered onto the crossbar in the 58th minute.

In the 81st, a long-range attempt by Eddie Bosnar finished just wide, and a minute later, it was Ante Moric that saw his shot finish just to the side of the woodwork.

Glory missed two more chances in the 88th and 94th minutes. The former was Jamie Harnwell missing an open goal and the latter, was when Despotovski hit the crossbar with his left foot.

On the whole it was a game that Glory deserved to win by virtue of their more dangerous opportunities, however, it was by no means a performance that will send shivers down the spine of opposition teams, especially given the poor quality of the opposition that they faced.



Con Boutsianis: New lease of life.

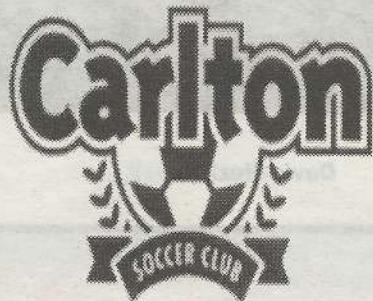
TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

TWENTY QUESTIONS WITH STUART MUNRO

By Thea Kennedy*

Stuart Munro is currently Senior Coach for the Melbourne Club, Carlton. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career at the highest levels in the Scottish and English leagues, including a seven-year stint at Glasgow Rangers, where he was a key player in four Championship winning sides.

A hard-tackling and creative left back, he also played for English sides Blackburn Rovers and Bristol City, before returning to his native Scotland playing with Falkirk and St Mirren, before transferring to Sydney United, for whom he made 21 appearances before moving to his current position.



During his career in Britain, Munro collected invaluable experience playing under some of the most successful and influential Club Managers and Coaches of this day, including Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish, Walter Smith and Joe Jordan.

SCSM Do you have a Coaching Philosophy?

S.M. Yes: Be simple, be organised, be disciplined.

SCSM What do you consider to be your strengths in coaching?

S.M. My Defensive Organisation.

SCSM What are your views on "Strength and Conditioning" at all levels of soccer?

S.M. Modern day players are more athletic. Therefore "Strength and Conditioning" plays a major part.

SCSM What place does "Skill Training" have in today's Programmes?

S.M. You can never do enough skill training, working on ball control, passing etc.

SCSM What type of "Skill Training" do you do?

S.M. Each session contains a period where each individual gets a feel of the ball, to juggle, control, run with the ball, beat opponents etc.

SCSM Do you have a yearly "Periodisation Plan" in place? And What does it entail?

S.M. Early season is mainly Fitness and organisation of Team Plans. Mid season is shorter, quicker training sessions and corrective work. End season players are given more rest periods to remain fresh.

SCSM Do you use game plans and patterns?

S.M. Yes. Very much at the start of the season to enable players to get to know what you expect of them.

SCSM How important is "Coaching the Player without the ball" In your view?

S.M. It is very much a part of our day to day training. Coaching players where and when to run to "receive a pass". Coaching players where and when to "close down opposition". Coaching players where and when to "drag defenders away to create space".

SCSM What type of drill do you use for "Coaching the player without the ball"?

S.M. Crossing and finishing drills

where you coach the movement of the two strikers i.e. near post, far post etc.

SCSM What statistics do you collect from a game and how do you collect them?

S.M. Some stats collected are shots at goal, chances created etc. To gather these I watch a video tape of the match.

SCSM What method do you use to give your players feed-back on their game and

performance?

S.M. Monday morning we have a team talk and watch the video tape of the match.

SCSM What type of qualities do you look for in a player when recruiting? Do you look for physical, mental or other qualities?

S.M. Firstly I look for good ability in their position, then speed and also attitude.

SCSM Each week, players are expected

to play at their peak. How do you as a coach ensure this performance?

S.M. By varying training sessions so that they are fresh and hungry come game day.

SCSM How important is the "Mental Aspect" of the player in Achieving performance?

S.M. Very important, if in his mind he is not focused and ready for the game, the player will not achieve.

SCSM Do you feel that a "Sport Psychologist" could assist in the "Mental preparation" of a player at top level?

S.M. Yes, it has a place.

SCSM What do you see as the "Prime Denominator" for a coach at any level?

S.M. To be patient but work hard.

SCSM Have you any advice for coaches who wish to coach at the highest level?

S.M. Treat your players like adults, not school kids, and you will gain their respect.

SCSM How do you see soccer developing over the next five years?

S.M. Hopefully more professional full time clubs and greater media coverage.

SCSM Has there been any person who influenced you through your coaching development?

S.M. Each and every coach I have worked under.

SCSM Is there anything more that Soccer Australia can do to help develop and encourage up and coming coaches?

S.M. Make even more coaching classes available to every level of soccer coach.



Stuart Munro: Carlton coach.

* The above interview with Stuart Munro was first published in Soccer Coaching Scene Magazine, which is a bi-monthly publication distributed by subscription only. The editorial content in each edition is written by accredited, qualified Australian-based coaches and sports specialists. The aim of the magazine is to provide up-to-date information and techniques for coaches and players of all levels and allowing up and coming and current coaches to study the methods of experienced coaches who are coaching at a higher level. To subscribe to the magazine, phone (02) 44 215 211 or 0412 736 118. Or visit the website www.shoalhaven.net.au/soccerscene/

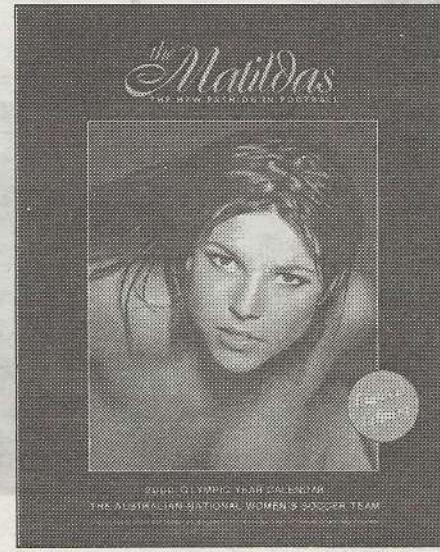
CARLTON BACK MATILDAS

Carlton Soccer Club have again indicated their willingness to push the marketing boundaries of soccer in Melbourne by having "a hundred or so" copies of the controversial "Matildas" Australian Womens Soccer Team calendar for sale at their home game against Canberra Cosmos last Friday night.

The calendar, which features 12 nude shots of the Matilda soccer players, has created a storm of interest and controversy in the Australian sporting world. Last week, for example, radio host Steve Price of 3AW roundly criticised the production of the calendar on his prime-time radio programme.

Carlton General Manager Lou Sticca commented:

"For all the Steve Prices' in this world there are a hundred soccer fans who will think this



Matilda's Calender: Backed by Carlton.

very stylish calendar which is just a bit of innocent fun.

"I think the girls look sensational. There's no point denying that all sport — male and female — blurs the boundaries between athleticism and beauty, and always has, right back to the days of the Ancient Greeks."

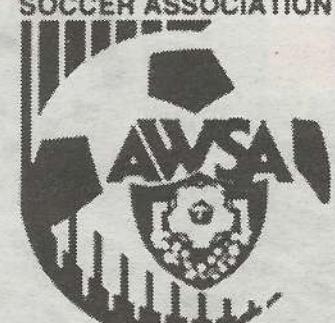
"People will draw their own boundaries according to their beliefs, but surely nudity is no longer considered particularly shocking. I reckon all the fuss is a storm in a tea cup."

Carlton will host the USA Women's team when they taken on the Czech Republic Women's team on January 7 as a curtain raiser to the NSL game against the Football Kingz.

Sticca commented:

"I'm sure some of the guys that come along to that game will be attracted by the girl's physical beauty — which is being promoted by the calen-

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION



dar — as well as their physical prowess with a soccer ball. I can't believe that everyone watching Anna Kournikova or Mary Pierce is entirely unaware of their obvious aesthetic charms as well as their tennis abilities."

WOLLONGONG

NOT PICTURED: Daniel Beltrame, Christian Zelvis, Peter Laha



Anthony Surjan



Saso Petrovski



David Huxley



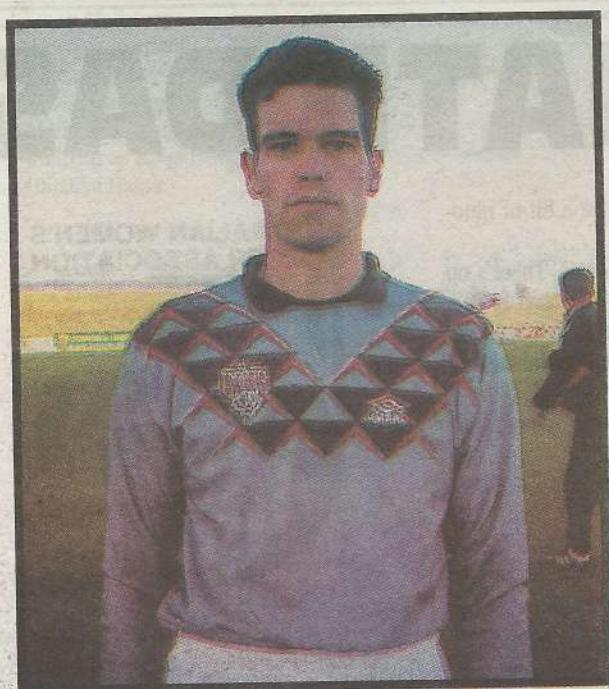
Matt Horsley



Paul Reid



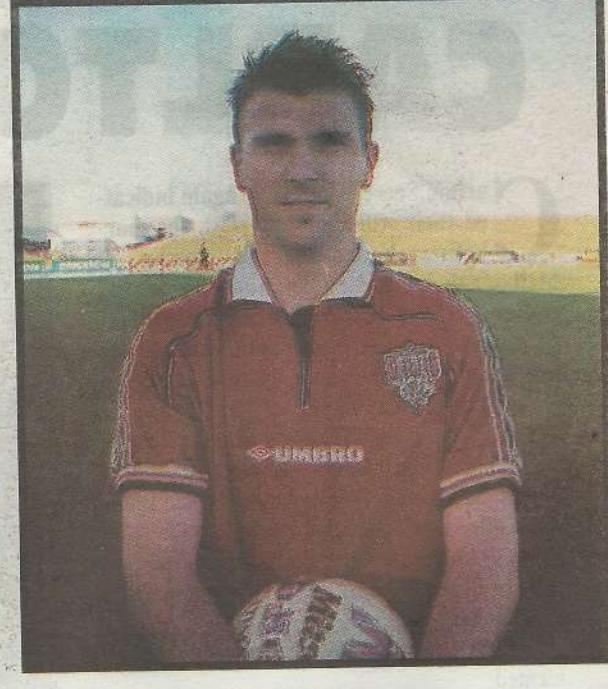
Scott Chipperfield



Les Pogliacomi



Esala Masi



Alvin Ceccoli

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PICTURES BY: Mark Stavroulakis



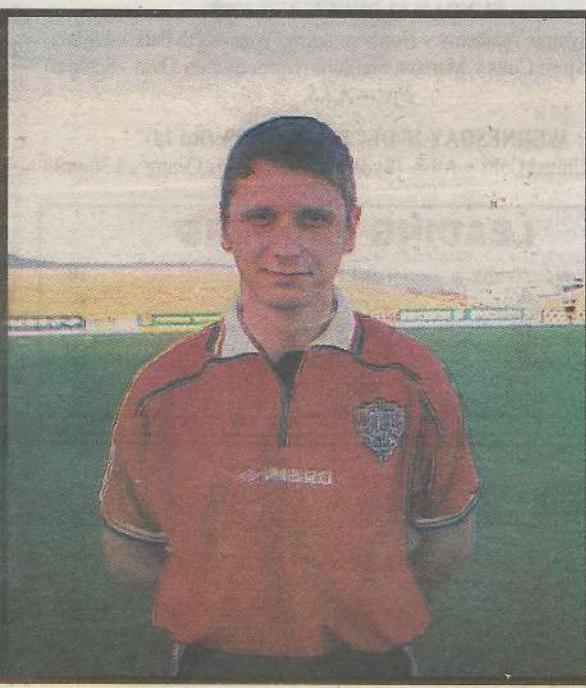
Neil Harlock



Noel Spencer



Chad Bishop



Stewart Young



David Cervinski



George Souris



Saso Dimoski



Robert Stanton



Paul Dimech

National Youth League

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 10)

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER

(Rd 1 postponed fixture)	
Marconi Stallions Colts	4 Northern Spirit Colts
(Papalucu 15, Marchesini 24 pen, Santilli 37, Burnett 88) (Foti 18)	1

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER

Wollongong Wolves	1 Sydney Olympic Academy
(Aldridge 12)	(Cevenini 15, Tirovski 45)
Newcastle Breakers	2 Q.A.S.
(Rufo 44, Johnson 88)	0
N.S.W.I.S.	5 A.C.T.A.S.
(Gavaghan 7, 32, Holman 9, Carney 30, Harte 82)	0

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER

A.I.S.	8 Northern Spirit Colts
(Pantelis 20, 57, Demourtzidis 28, 50, 53, Talevski 38, Last 59, Kennedy 74)	0
Marconi Stallions	3 Northern Spirit
(Severino 43, 50, Mondello 89) (Seal 16, Bilokapic 85)	2
Newcastle Breakers Colts	1 Q.A.S.
(Wheeler 19) (Webber 48, Davidson 62, Miner 88)	3
Sydney Olympic	7 Sydney United Colts
(Kohler 16, George 21, Pisano 36, Macallister 62, Nicolaou 64, Nizam 67, 81)	0

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER

Sydney Olympic Academy ..	4 A.I.S.
(scorers unavailable)	6
Last 52, 58, 63, Hathway 81)	(Kennedy 13, Mrkela 47,
Newcastle Breakers Colts	0 Parramatta Power
(Pfengle 66)	1

Bye - Marconi Stallions Colts

Parramatta Power	9	8	1	1	0	29	4	25
A.I.S.	11	7	2	0	2	45	14	23
Sydney Olympic	8	6	2	1	0	24	5	20
Q.A.S.	10	6	1	1	3	29	14	19
Northern Spirit	8	5	1	1	2	15	10	16
Newcastle Breakers	10	5	1	0	4	17	14	16
Marconi Stallions	8	5	0	0	3	13	15	15

N.S.W.I.S.	8	4	1	1	3	16	7	13
Sydney Olympic Academy	9	4	0	1	5	22	33	12
A.C.T.A.S.	9	3	2	1	4	15	22	11
Marconi Stallions Colts	8	2	2	1	4	12	20	8
Northern Spirit Colts	8	2	2	1	4	9	20	8
Wollongong Wolves	8	2	1	1	5	8	16	7
Sydney United	6	2	1	0	3	6	15	7
Newcastle Breakers Colts	11	1	1	0	9	11	26	6
Sydney United Colts	11	1	2	0	8	11	30	5
Wollongong Wolves Colts	6	0	1	1	5	5	23	1

By Theo Katsaros

The Marconi Stallions Colts defeated the Northern Spirit Colts last Wednesday night in a deferred fixture from Round 1. The 4-1 result came courtesy of strikes from Adrian Papalucu, Paolo Marchesini, from the penalty spot, Saul Santilli and Adam Burnett. Nathan Foti replied for the Spirit.

In Round 10 action, the Sydney Olympic Academy travelled to Brandon Park to face the Wollongong Wolves. Despite leading 1-0 after 12 minutes, via Daniel Aldridge, the Wolves could not keep the Olympians at bay. Goals to Christian Cevenini after 15 minutes and Sash Tirovski on the stroke of half-time were enough to take all the three points for the visitors.

The Newcastle Breakers entertained the Q.A.S. last Friday night. Two lapses prior to both breaks cost the Q.A.S. dearly. For Newcastle, Joshua Rufo scored in the 44th minute and Mitchell Johnson scored two minutes from time to secure the 2-0 victory.

The N.S.W.I.S. were ruthless in their 5-0 destruction of the A.C.T.A.S. at Valentine Park. The hosts went ahead through Peter Gavaghan in the seventh minute and struck two minutes later via Brett Holman. David Carney added a third after half an hour before Gavaghan grabbed his second in the 32nd minute. The second half produced a solitary goal to Gavin Harte after 82 minutes.

In Canberra, the A.I.S. annihilated the Northern Spirit Colts by 8-0. The A.I.S. welcomed back their Joeys who immediately made an impact. Lucas Pantelis found the net twice whilst Joshua Kennedy also scored on his return. Elias Demourtzidis bagged a hat-trick before being substituted whilst Goran Talevski and Grant Last scored singles.

An 89th minute winner from Anthony Mondello settled the clash between the Marconi Stallions and the Northern Spirit. The Spirit took the lead after 16 minutes through David Seal but trailed for most of the second half after Daniel Severino netted twice for the Stallions in the 43rd and 50th minutes. The Spirit must have thought they had stolen a point when Paul Bilokapic scored in the 85th minute but they could not deny the hosts.

The Q.A.S. defeated the Newcastle Breakers Colts by 3-1 in a match

brought forward from Round 27. The Breakers took the lead in the 19th minute through Paul Wheeler. The Q.A.S. however were too strong in the second half. The goalscorers for the Queenslanders were Adam Webber, Brady Davidson and Russel Miner.

At Belmore, Sydney Olympic hammered an outclassed Sydney United Colts outfit. The 7-0 demolition cements Olympic's top three position. For Olympic, Huseyin Nizam grabbed a double, whilst Paul Kohler, Nathaniel George, a recent acquisition from the Northern Spirit, Damian Pisano, Dylan Macallister and Dimitri Nicolaou registered singles.

The A.I.S. looked to be in trouble when they trailed 4-1 to the Sydney Olympic Academy in the match brought forward from Round 13. However, a five-goal second half secured an amazing 6-4 win for the Institute.

The Parramatta Power remains on top of the league after scraping home by 1-0 over the Newcastle Breakers Colts. Monte Pfengle scoring in the 66th minute.

Sydney United hosted the Wollongong Wolves Colts last night (Monday) to wrap up an eventful Round 10.

ROUND 11

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 1999

A.C.T.A.S v Sydney Olympic (Bruce Stadium - 5.00pm)

Parramatta Power v Newcastle Breakers (Parramatta Stadium - 5.30pm)

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 1999

Wollongong Wolves Colts v Newcastle Breakers Colts (Brandon Park No. 2 - 4.00pm)

Sydney United Colts v Wollongong Wolves (Sydney United Sports Centre - 4.00pm)

Q.A.S. v N.S.W.I.S. (Suncorp Metway Stadium - 4.45pm)

Marconi Stallions Colts v Sydney United (Marconi Stadium - 5.00pm)

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 1999

Sydney Olympic Academy v Northern Spirit (Wentworth Park - 4.00pm)

Northern Spirit Colts v Marconi Stallions (North Sydney Oval - 6.30pm)

Bye - A.I.S.

WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER 1999 (Rd 14)

Sydney United Colts v A.I.S. (Sydney United Sports Centre - 6.30pm)

LEADING SCORERS

Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	10
Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	8
Grant Las	A.I.S.	6
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	6
Damian Pisano	Sydney Olympic	6

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 7)

Merrick who was speaking at a conference.

Evan Papadopoulos put the VIS in front after only four minutes, then Ray Sekulovski made it two in 20. Mark Tsiorlas came on as substitute with about 20 minutes to go and promptly set up Naum Sekulovski for a goal in 78 minutes, then scored two of his own in 83 and 88 minutes to round off a comprehensive victory against a plucky Fawkner outfit.

Gippsland Falcons and Melbourne Knights drew 1-1 at Falcons Stadium also last Friday. Chris Tabak, the Knights left-side player opened for the Knights early on and Tony Pardo equalised from the penalty spot for the Falcons.

South Melbourne beat Preston Lions by 3-1 at Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday. From the scoreline it looked like a regulation win to the Blues, with two goals from George Goutzioulis and one from the ever active Boris Ovcin. But despite incessant South Melbourne pressure it was the young Lions who took the lead a couple of minutes before the interval through Ali Ibrahim. An early goal in the second half levelled for the Blues and then they went ahead shortly afterwards. The stand-out player in the match however was Lions keeper Pasi Schwalger who stood between his team and a landslide. Watch out for this keeper in future.

A seven-goal thriller between Bulleen Inter and South Dandenong ended with a winning goal to Bulleen in the 88th minute after South Dandenong had fought back from 3-1 down. Michael Marinelli scored first for Bulleen and the prolific Xhezair Sulemani added two more in 51 and 64 minutes, before the Dandenong fightback led by former Knights youth player Festim Zekiri who scored twice. Young Ibrahim Ibraimi made it three each, but with two minutes left to play Joseph Damiano conjured up the winner for Bulleen. Goran Runje of South Dandenong could not fault his players work-rate and effort, but will be working on cutting out crosses for all four of Bulleen's goals came from incidents where the South defence did not attack cross balls.

Melbourne Knights Academy recorded its first win for the season by 1-0 against Albury-Wodonga. The only goal came six minutes into the second half from Ibrahim Hanzic. The Knights staff thought their team had the better of the match, but only managed to put one chance away, but the lads from Albury-Wodonga would point to their stern resistance and refusal to give way under pressure.

By Roy Hay

The Victorian Institute of Sport completed its sixth game in the Southern Division without conceding a goal when it beat Fawkner Blues by 5-0 at Grange Reserve last Saturday. Lou Kastner took charge of the team in the absence of head coach Ernie

ROUND 8

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 1999

VIS v Melbourne Knights Academy,

(Grange Reserve, 4 pm)

Preston Lions v Carlton,

(B T Connor Reserve, 4 pm)

Albury Wodonga v Melbourne Knights,

(Alexandra Park, 4pm)

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 1999

Bulleen Inter v South Melbourne,

(Mahoneys Reserve, 4 pm)

Fawkner Blues v South Dandenong,

(Reggio Calabria Club, 4pm)

Gippsland Falcons v Bye

LEADING SCORERS

Anthony Pelikan	Melbourne Knights	9
Andrew Mashoian	South Melbourne	8
Josip Loncaric	Melbourne Knights	5

National Youth League

NORTHERN DIVISION

Picture Special



Australian Institute of Sport: Competitive as always.



Sydney Olympic: Great season so far.

Above photos taken by
Mark Stavroulakis

SOUTHERN DIVISION



Josip Loncaric (7) of the Melbourne Knights and Eddie Awad (6) of Carlton.



These photos taken by
Roy Hay



Nick Tolios of Carlton outjumps Lance Plunkett of the Melbourne Knights 'for a professional finish'.



Carlton's Angelo Motsiopoulos bursts between Filip Slaveski and Jure Radosevic (Right).

FAMOUS PHOTOS

KREIDER'S KEEPER EXTRAVAGANZA



ABSW's West Australian correspondent, Richard Kreider is seen pictured here with an array of goalkeeping talent. He is seen pictured on the left with extravert custodian Bruce Grobbelaar. More recently at the FIFA All-Stars game held in Sydney he was seen between the posts himself, that is, between Frenchman Berhard Lama and livewire Mexican Jorge Campos. We hope Richard kept a clean sheet.

Have you had your photo taken with someone famous in soccer? Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW. Send photos to
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Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to
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SOCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

The Birth of a Calendar

How many more thousands, millions of people now know who the "Matildas" are? The Matildas did not have to do a calendar, but their decision to go ahead with this bold project has taken the team and the sport into new territory. Into the mainstream community, which is always the toughest market to crack for non-traditional women's sport.

Granted - the calendar is not for everyone, nor is it liked by everyone. But the enormous media attention it has created just goes to prove the sad but true situation that on-field performances alone don't get your name out there in the public domain.

This is just one step in a much bigger process. I doubt very much there will ever be another Matildas calendar (of this type anyway) because this has now achieved what it set out to do - to raise the profile and public awareness. Now that we have caught everyone's attention, we move on with the business of football.

Today, the Matildas get back into working their butts off on the training pitch. It just so happens the players were on a rare break from full-time training last week, allowing them to spend so much time promoting the calendar. But in the end, it's their footballing prowess they will be remembered for. Now they must produce on the park, because that's all that really matters.

The proof of the pudding comes with translating this new-found fame into burns on seats, getting this new audience out to the stadiums to see the Matildas

in action and dazzling them with skill, thrills and athleticism. Similarly with the media, getting them out to see for themselves what an exciting, professional and worldly sport women's football is and convincing them that it deserves their support in terms of column space and air time.

THE BIRTH

The Matildas calendar was the brainchild of Ettore Flacco, a publisher and editor with a passion for football. A phone call to AWSA resulted in Chief Executive Warren Fisher meeting with the team. The idea was put to the whole Matildas squad, without presenting it as a good or a bad idea. The decision whether to take it on was left entirely to the players. Had the feeling been negative, the idea would have been trashed there and then without a moment's thought. But looking at it as an exciting way to raise the profile of the sport and a fun thing to do, the team gave it the thumbs up.

It was then the personal choice of each individual athlete who did and who did not want to face the camera. The athletes were not chosen by anyone other than themselves.

Money never clouded the team's decision and the issue of royalties was only mentioned to the players afterwards. And let's not forget the Board of the AWSA. The six females who head the sport had the courage to give it their approval.

Flacco, photographer Rodney Stewart, a stylist and assistant headed to Canberra for the two-day shoot,

scheduled around training sessions, and the calendar was born.

THE DOZEN

Twelve Matildas appear in the calendar - Tracie McGovern, Sunni Hughes, Amy Taylor, Alison Forman, Sharon Black, Cheryl Salisbury, Kim Revell, Alicia Ferguson, Katrina Boyd, Sarah Cooper, Traci Bartlett, and Bridgette Starr.

THE LAUNCH

Ten of the 12 Matildas were available for the calendar launch, held at the new trendoid Chicane restaurant in Sydney's Darlinghurst last Tuesday 30 November. Sarah Cooper, still in the US with the World Stars Team, and Sunni Hughes, back at home with her ill mother, were the two unavailable.

Media interest had already been high for a solid week before the launch. Once the media opened their mail to find a no-holds barred calendar photo of Amy Taylor inviting them to the launch, the Matildas were suddenly news. Talkback radio presenter Steve White of Melbourne's 3AW started the ball rolling on Tuesday afternoon 23 November, describing it as more like an invitation to a brothel, a quote which appeared in a very brief piece in the next morning's newspapers, and from there it went crazy.

It was therefore no surprise that by the time the Matildas arrived at their own launch, the place was

already packed. Journalists, camera crews, and photographers clambered over each other as other guests tried to get out of the way. The 12 eagerly awaited calendar photos were revealed and all 10 players were snapped up and led to different corners of the room for interviews and photo opportunities.

MEDIA SATURATION

The Matildas calendar filled the airwaves, the television screens and the print media for a solid nine days. This little idea suddenly went through the roof and far exceeded anyone's expectations. It captured the imagination of a new audience, it sparked debate and continued to grow and spread wings as new angles on the subject were discussed. Early negative reaction was countered by much greater positive support.

The calendar became such a major subject that the Matildas featured in TV interviews on national top-rating shows including *A Current Affair*, *The Today Show*, *Sports Tonight*, and *World Sports*. As well as being a big talkback radio issue, popular youth stations 2DAY-FM and Triple M also featured the Matildas. The calendar appeared on every TV news bulletin throughout the country, and was discussed over several days by every major newspaper, including front page colour photo stories in *The Australian* and *The Age*.

MORE MATILDA'S PAGE 6

"Now that we have caught everyone's attention, we move on with the business of football."

GONE GLOBAL

The extent of coverage in the Australian media has been a big enough surprise in itself, but little did anyone expect the now emerging news that the calendar has caused huge interest around the world. Football truly is the world game - what other sport would have generated so much interest the world over.

* The calendar was a TV news topic throughout the USA on major network CNN as early as 26 November, four days

before the launch. It has also appeared on other American news bulletins including *Inside Edition*, *News National*, and *Fox News*. There are at least another 12 countries known to us (there would be others) where TV has aired the subject including Brazil, South Africa and many European nations. BBC Online has also been a far-reaching news source.

* The calendar made front page news (with pics) in the *Toronto Sun* in Canada and also in The Netherlands. From the

China Post to UK's *Sunday Times*, from The Philippines to the Czech Republic, people around the world have read about and seen pictures in their daily newspaper. So far we know of a total of coverage in 21 different countries.

* Up until Saturday, over 800 emails had been received via the Matildas website about the calendar, 95 per cent of which are overseas enquiries on how to purchase copies.

Since the launch, the phone has been jammed with both local and overseas enquiries on where to buy the calendar.

* So far, emails have been received from 40 other countries. USA, Germany, and the Scandinavians topping the polls. The full list to date is — Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, South

Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, Vietnam

* Major worldwide American online retailer Amazon.com has approached AWSA about distribution rights

SPIN-OFFS

The offers are now starting to come in with other companies and organisations wanting the Matildas to be involved in different promotions.

Not that the players will have time to accept a lot of this type of stuff with their 6-day a week training schedule. The proposals so far include magazine features, charity appearances, corporate advertising campaigns, autograph sessions, and internet projects.

Sponsors Lauda Air, Fitor Smallgoods, and Mitre have already come on board since the birth of the calendar.

ODDITIES

The sudden popularity of the Matildas website last week was slowing up the entire Australian Sports Commission computer network by about 20 per cent

A copy of the calendar was requested as a wedding present for the just-married Mathilde, a member of the Belgian royal family.

A calendar has been requested by an Australian major from the headquarters of Interfit in East Timor to boost moral

An American laundromat owner wants to buy 100 calendars

A small electronics company in Norway wants to order 300 calendars for their best customers

WHERE D'YA GET IT?

In less than a week, the initial print run of 15,000 is all but sold out and very difficult to find. With the AOC demanding the Olympic wording be removed from all other print runs, this first lot have become collectors items. The original stockists include 7-Eleven stores nationwide, plus certain newsagencies.

Details of your nearest stockist may be obtained by phoning national distributor RDS on 02/9353.9911.



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WORLD



TITI CAMARA: Almost hit the target with this Bicycle kick.

PREMIER LEAGUE (ENGLAND)

DERBY 0 LEEDS 1

A controversial penalty with seconds remaining gave Leeds an injury time win for the second week running and put them two points clear of Manchester United at the top of the table.

Referee Paul Alcock ruled that Horacio Carbonari fouled Australian Harry Kewell in the box and Ian Harte struck his fifth goal of the season from the spot.

Leeds, who have 38 points from 17 games, had the best of the play but had been unable to break the deadlock although Kewell and Michael Bridges went close.

LIVERPOOL 4 SHEF WED 1

Liverpool moved fifth with a comfortable victory after a Nicolas Alexandersson drive had given bottom club Wednesday a surprise 18th minute lead.

But Liverpool were level within three minutes through a Sami Hyppia header from David Thompson's corner and Danny Murphy shot them into a 41st minute lead after help again from Thompson.

Steven Gerrard put Liverpool further ahead after 69 minutes with the goal of the match and another fine run from man-of-the-match Thompson ended with an accurate finish for the fourth.

LEICESTER 0 ARSENAL 3

Frenchman Gilles Grimandi and fellow defender Lee Dixon gave Arsenal the upper hand with a goal each either side of halftime.

Grimandi headed the London side in front in the 23rd minute from a corner and full back Dixon added the second after 54 minutes.

Dutch winger Marc Overmars sealed success by driving home the third from a cross from the left by Stephen Hughes in the 75th minute.

ASTON VILLA 0 NEWCASTLE 1

Scottish forward Duncan Ferguson scored his first goal of 1999 to give struggling Newcastle their first away league win of the season at the ninth attempt.

Ferguson struck in the 58th minute against a Villa team who have now gone nine league games without a win.

BRADFORD 1 M'BORO 1

Middlesbrough were given an early lift when Colombian forward Hamilton Ricard put them ahead after 13 minutes.

Forward Lee Mills equalised on the hour to give Bradford only their second point in their last five games.

MAN UTD 5 EVERTON 1

Norwegian forward Ole Gunnar Solskjaer turned this into an outstanding personal triumph with four goals in 29 minutes, scoring after 29, 43, 52 and 58 minutes.

European champions United had been rocked in the seventh minute when Everton went ahead from a counter-attack, striker Francis Jeffers supplying the finishing touch.

However, United were back on terms when defender Denis Irwin scored from the spot in the 27th minute after defender Richard Dunne handled. Then came Solskjaer's onslaught.

SOUTHAMPTON 0 COVENTRY 0

Coventry, despite having four influential defenders ruled out with injury, held out for a point but are still without an away win in eight league games this season.

SUNDERLAND 4 CHELSEA 1

Peter Reid's 200th league match as Sunderland manager got off to a perfect start when Niall Quinn thrust the home side in front in the first minute, the Irishman slotting in from close range.

Striker Kevin Phillips increased their advantage with strikes after 23 and 36 minutes, then Quinn turned it into a drubbing by scoring a fourth after 38 minutes.

Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet reduced the deficit nine minutes from the finish.

WIMBLEDON 5 WATFORD 0

Carl Cort gave Wimbledon a 15th minute lead off a rebound when fellow striker John Hartson's effort from a corner was not properly cleared. Robbie Earle increased the lead after 32 minutes, again following a corner.

Wimbledon put the result beyond doubt with a three-goal burst in 17 minutes midway through the second half. John Hartson, back after a thigh injury, Jason Euell and Marcus Gayle did the damage.

SERIE A (ITALY)

BARI 3 PIACENZA 2

Bari achieved their first home win since defeating Piacenza last May despite falling behind to Ruggiero Rizzitelli's inspired 32nd minute goal — a backheeled volley into the top corner.

Michele Marcolini levelled in the 40th before Moroccan centre-back Rachid Neqrouz put Bari in front. Davide Dionigi's header put Piacenza back on level terms only for Neqrouz to score the decider in the 76th with his second of the match.

FIorentina 2 AC MILAN 1

Fiorentina warmed up for next week's Champions League trip to Bordeaux by coming from a goal down to defeat Milan.

Oliver Bierhoff put the visitors in front in the opening minute but, in the 22nd minute, Costacurta gifted Gabriel Batistuta his first goal against Milan at the Artemio Franchi since 1993.

In the 41st, Sebastiano Rossi parried Angelo Di Livio's long-range effort to Jorg Heinrich who put Fiorentina in front.

In the 70th, Bierhoff, clean through on goal, shot against the upright before watching the ball roll agonisingly across the goal.

INTER MILAN 3 UDINESE 0

Ivano Recoba kept up his record of scoring in every match since substituting for the injured Ronaldo with his third goal in three matches in the 19th minute.

Christian Vieri put Inter two up in the 57th with his first goal since September 26, before 18-year-old Nello Russo added a third on his debut in injury time.

PARMA 4 TORINO 1

Argentine Hernan Crespo quickly made amends for last week's 90th minute penalty miss at Milan with a third minute opener.

Compatriot Ariel Ortega added a solo second on the stroke of halftime before Crespo took his season's tally to nine in 12 matches with a 57th minute third. Crespo's second equalled former Parma player Gianfranco Zola's club record of 49 goals.

Brazilian defender Andre Cruz put through his own net in the 75th to complete Torino's dismal day

with Yugoslav Ilijas Ivic claiming a last minute consolation goal.

AS ROMA 3 LECCE 2

League leaders Roma nearly spurned the chance to go top, twice taking the lead through Francesco Totti in the 41st and Vincent Candela in the 68th and twice conceding equalisers — to Davide Sesa in the 50th and Matteo Pivotto in the 69th.

But the home side kept their heads and Marco Delvecchio set up Vincent Candela for an 86th minute decider that clinched Roma's fourth successive victory in the league.

VENEZIA 2 REGGINA 0

Sierra Leone striker Mohamed Kallon wasted two golden opportunities for Reggina before two goals from Filippo Maniero, in the 56th and 67th minutes allowed reinstated Venezia manager Luciano Spalletti to mark his first match back in charge with victory.

VERONA 2 CAGLIARI 0

After managing just five goals in their previous 11 league matches, Verona scored twice in two minutes midway through the first half to leave Cagliari rooted to the bottom of the table without a win this season.

Alfredo Aglietti struck in the 33rd and when his 35th minute shot was parried by goalkeeper Alessio Scarpi, Brazilian Adailton was on hand for his first of the season.

JUVENTUS 2 BOLOGNA 0

Filippo Inzaghi maintained his excellent strike record against Bologna — 11 goals in Serie A — with two second-half opportunist efforts. The Italian striker was on hand in the 55th to tap in after Alessandro Del Piero's quick side pass foiled goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, who was expecting a shot.

Inzaghi's second, 15 minutes later, was even easier, Del Piero's shot rebounding off Massimo Tarantino's leg to present an open goal.

PERUGIA 0 LAZIO 2

Marcelo Salas's first-half header off a pinpoint Alen Boksic cross set Lazio on the way to their first league win in three matches.

Portuguese Sergio Conceicao sealed victory with an individual 63rd minute effort but only after Croat Milan Rapajic had hit the bar twice.



BATISTUTA: Celebrating his goal with Enrico Chiesa (L) and Sandro Cois (R).

WORLD

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



GROUP A

Porto (Portugal)
Hertha Berlin (Germany)
Barcelona (Spain)
Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Hertha Berlin	1	Barcelona	1
Michalke 33	Luis Enrique 14	Batistuta 25, Balbo 52	
Sparta Prague	0	Porto	2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Porto	v	Hertha Berlin	
Barcelona	v	Sparta Prague	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Barcelona	v	Porto	
Hertha Berlin	v	Sparta Prague	

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Porto	v	Barcelona	
Sparta Prague	v	Hertha Berlin	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Barcelona	v	Hertha Berlin	
Porto	v	Sparta Prague	

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Hertha Berlin	v	Porto	
Sparta Prague	v	Barcelona	

Table

Porto	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Barcelona	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hertha Berlin	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sparta Prague	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP B

Bordeaux (France)
Fiorentina (Italy)
Manchester United (England)
Valencia (Spain)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fiorentina	2	Manchester Utd	0
Batistuta 25, Balbo 52			
Valencia	3	Bordeaux	0

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bordeaux	v	Fiorentina	
Manchester Utd	v	Valencia	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Manchester Utd	v	Bordeaux	
Fiorentina	v	Valencia	

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Bordeaux	v	Manchester Utd	
Valencia	v	Fiorentina	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Manchester Utd	v	Fiorentina	
Bordeaux	v	Valencia	

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Fiorentina	v	Bordeaux	
Valencia	v	Manchester Utd	

Table

Valencia	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Fiorentina	1	1	0	2	0	3	
Manchester Utd	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bordeaux	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP C

Bayern Munich (Germany)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)
Real Madrid (Spain)
Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Dynamo Kiev	1	Real Madrid	2
Rebrov 85pen		Morientes 17, Raul 48	
Rosenborg	1	Bayern Munich	1
Skammelsrud 47		Jancker 10	

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bayern Munich	v	Dynamo Kiev	
Real Madrid	v	Rosenborg	

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Real Madrid	v	Bayern Munich	
Dynamo Kiev	v	Rosenborg	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Bayern Munich	v	Real Madrid	
Rosenborg	v	Dynamo Kiev	

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Real Madrid	v	Dynamo Kiev	
Bayern Munich	v	Rosenborg	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Dynamo Kiev	v	Bayern Munich	
Rosenborg	v	Real Madrid	

Table

Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bayern Munich	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Rosenborg	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dynamo Kiev	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP D

Feyenoord (Netherlands)
Olympique Marseille (France)
Lazio (Italy)
Chelsea (England)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Marseille	0	Lazio	2
Stankovic 64,		Conceicao 78	
Chelsea	3	Feyenoord	1

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Feyenoord	v	Marseille	
Lazio	v	Chelsea	

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Lazio	v	Feyenoord	
Marseille	v	Chelsea	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Feyenoord

WORLD

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until December 22)

1 Brazil	69 Costa Rica	136 St Kitts & Nevis
2 France	70 Burkina Faso	138 Libya
3 Czech Republic	71 Guatemala	139 Benin
4 Spain	72 Mali	140 St Vincent/Gr
5 Germany	73 Estonia	141 Ethiopia
6 Croatia	74 Bosnia-Herzegovina	142 Solomon Islands
7= Argentina	75 Gabon	143 Panama
7= Norway	76 Cuba	144 Andorra
9 Romania	77 Honduras	144= San Marino
10 Mexico	78 Iraq	145= Sri Lanka
11 England	79 Uzbekistan	147= Dominica
12 Italy	80= Northern Ireland	147= Saint Lucia
13 Yugoslavia	80= Canada	149 Antigua & Barbuda
14 Denmark	82 Nigeria	150 Maldives
15 Portugal	82 Senegal	151 Lesotho
16 Sweden	84 Namibia	152 Gambia
17 Netherlands	85 AUSTRALIA	153 Laos
18 Paraguay	86 Albania	154 Dominican Republic
19 Russia	87 Armenia	155 Nepal
20 Slovakia	87 Algeria	156 Yemen
21 United States	89 Togo	157 Cayman Islands
22 Chile	90 Guinea	158 Mauritania
23 Scotland	91= Oman	159= Rwanda
24= Morocco	91= Qatar	159= Kyrgyzstan
24= Colombia	93 Moldova	161 Niger
26= Israel	93 Wales	162 Surinam
26= Austria	95 El Salvador	163 British Virgin Is.
28 Ukraine	96 Belarus	164 Bermuda
29 Tunisia	97 Indonesia	165 Botswana
30 Belgium	98 Azerbaijan	166 Korea DPR
31 South Africa	99 Mozambique	167 Netherlands Antilles
32 Poland	100 Haiti	168 Eritrea
33 Turkey	101 New Zealand	169 Palestine
34 Greece	102 Congo	170 Cambodia
35 Zambia	103 Kenya	171 Guyana
36 Republic of Ireland	104 Singapore	172 Guinea-Bissau
37 Bulgaria	104 Liberia	173 Chinese Taipei
38 Egypt	106 Vietnam	174 Macao
39 Saudi Arabia	107 Syria	175 Cape Verde Is.
40 Trinidad & Tobago	108 Uganda	176 Tonga
41 Korea Republic	109= Lebanon	177 Samoa
42 Uruguay	109= India	178 Philippines
43= Slovenia	111 Venezuela	179 Pakistan
43= Jamaica	112 Faroe Islands	180= Cook Islands
45 Peru	113 Malawi	180= Papua New Guinea
46 Iran	114 Barbados	180= Chad
47 Hungary	115 Jordan	183 Vanuatu
48 Iceland	116 Malaysia	184 Puerto Rico
49 Switzerland	117 Tajikistan	185 Brunei Darussalam
50 Lithuania	118 Kazakhstan	186 Bahamas
51 Ivory Coast	119 Mauritius	187= Belize
52 Japan	120 Malta	187= Aruba
53 Angola	121 Sierra Leone	189 Seychelles
54 Finland	122 Turkmenistan	190 Nicaragua
55 Ghana	123 Grenada	191 Central African Rep.
55 Cameroon	124 Luxembourg	192 US Virgin Islands
57 Bolivia	125 Hong Kong	193= Equatorial Guinea
58 Cyprus	126 Tanzania	193= Djibouti
59 Congo DR (Zaire)	127 Myanmar	195 Turks and Caicos Islands
60 China PR	128= Liechtenstein	196 Sao Tome e Principe
61 Latvia	128= Sudan	197 Somalia
62 Ecuador	130 Swaziland	198= Mongolia
63 Thailand	131 Burundi	198= American Samoa
64 FYR Macedonia	132 Fiji	200 Guam
65 Georgia	133 Bahrain	201= Montserrat
66 UAE	134 Madagascar	201= Anguilla
67 Kuwait	135 Bangladesh	
68 Zimbabwe	136 Tahiti	

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.



founded 1904

TOYOTA CUP: BOSNICH HERO

Mark Bosnich won his first trophy with Manchester United last week after a goalkeeping display worthy of Peter Schmeichel at his peak.

Bosnich kept Palmeiras at bay with a string of fine saves to protect United's 1-0 lead in the World Club Cup Final and ensure the English club won their fourth title of the year.

Schmeichel was first choice keeper when United won the English league, the F.A. Cup and the European Cup last season.

Bosnich's display in the National Stadium finally convinced manager Alex Ferguson he had found the great Dane's successor.

"Tonight I think he solidified his reputation as a great goalkeeper," said Ferguson who signed Bosnich in June to replace Schmeichel.

"I think he has been doing very, very well in the last few matches, but sometimes you have got to do something particularly noteworthy to make everyone sit up and take notice."

"I think tonight he showed the ability we always knew he had."

The Australian made three vital saves in the final and was never less than commanding in his box. The first came after 23 minutes when he spread himself Schmeichel-style to deny midfielder Alex what looked to be a certain goal.

He parried the ball at close range and Gary Neville hooked it to safety. After 76 minutes substitute Oceas burst through and powered a close-range shot at goal but Bosnich blocked it.

Three minutes later he denied Alex a second time, acrobatically tipping another goal-bound shot over his crossbar for a corner.

Giggs, who supplied the cross that lead to captain Roy Keane's winning goal in the 35th minute and was named man of the match, was full of praise for the keeper.



Mark Bosnich: Great saves.

"He played brilliantly and made three fantastic reflex saves. I think he had a great game and hopefully that will set him, and us, up for a great season."

Bosnich has had a difficult start to his second career at Old Trafford, almost a decade after leaving the club following just three league appearances

at the start of the 1990s.

Because of work permit problems at that time, Bosnich was forced to return to Australia and that meant Ferguson had to look elsewhere for a goalkeeper.

The player he chose of course was Schmeichel, who was a major factor in United's haul of honours throughout the decade.

When Schmeichel decided to leave United after eight years — his last match was last season's European Cup final victory over Bayern Munich — Ferguson invited Bosnich back to Old Trafford, and he signed on a free transfer from Aston Villa.

But things did not go according to plan. Ferguson was unimpressed with Bosnich's fitness and his early performances left much to be desired.

Bosnich was injured and lost his first team place. Raimond Van Der Gouw, Schmeichel's long-term deputy, pressed his claims and Ferguson was so worried he invested 4.5 million pounds (\$7.17 million) in Venezia goalkeeper Massimo Taibi.

The Italian also made mistakes in his opening games and had a nightmare when Chelsea beat United 5-0 in October.

After regaining his fitness, Bosnich regained his place in the starting lineup and has held on to it ever since. Taibi has sat on the bench or played for the reserves.

Asked if his performance could prove to be the turning point for the Australian, Ferguson, replied: "You sense it after a match like that. He was quite magnificent."

PAST WINNERS

Following is a list of World Club Cup finals between the European champions and South American champions since the competition began in 1960.

From 1960-1979 the matches were played over two legs with, until 1964, a third match play-off taking place because the matches were not decided on aggregate but on the actual match winner.

Since 1980 it has been played as a single match in Tokyo:

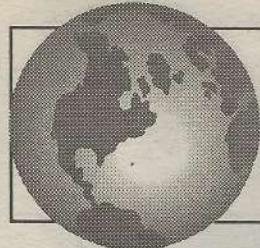
Year Winners Runners-Up Score

1960 Real Madrid	Penarol	0-0, 5-1
1961 Penarol	Benfica	0-1, 5-0, 2-1
1962 Santos	Benfica	3-2, 5-2
1963 Santos	AC Milan	2-4, 4-2, 1-0
1964 Inter Milan	Independiente	0-1, 2-0, 1-0
1965 Inter Milan	Independiente	3-0, 0-0
1966 Penarol	Real Madrid	2-0, 2-0
1967 Racing Club	Celtic	0-1, 2-1, 1-0
1968 Estudiantes	Manchester Utd	1-0, 1-1
1969 AC Milan	Estudiantes	3-0, 1-2
1970 Feyenoord	Estudiantes	2-2, 1-0
1971 Nacional	Panathinaikos	1-1, 2-1
1972 Ajax	Independiente	1-1, 3-0
1973 Independiente	Juventus	1-0 (one match only)
1974 Atletico Madrid	Independiente	0-1, 2-0
1975 not played		
1976 Bayern Munich	Cruzeiro	2-0, 0-0
1977 Boca Juniors	Bor. Moenchengladbach	2-2, 3-0

In 1971, 1973, 1974, 1977 and 1979 the European Cup runners-up took part after the European Cup winners declined to take part.

Total wins: South America 20, Europe 18

WORLD



MANCHESTER UNITED

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MAN. UTD - THE TREBLE

REVIEW

By Vince Battaglia

Even the most ardent of Soccer fans will be blown away by the latest ABC video release on last season's treble-winning champions Manchester United.

As a fan and historian of the game, even I watched in astonishment at the content — exclusive footage and all — of this quite amazing video.

As a comprehensive guide to the 1998/99 triumphant season for the Red Devils, the video rolls off the film like a feature length, action packed 'Arnold Schwarzenegger blockbuster', just minus all the bloodshed.

A month by month look at the highs, the lows, the decisions and the results makes this a

video for all lovers of sport, not just lovers of the world game.

A great kick by kick detail of an amazing 33 match unbeaten run which culminated when they snatched the European Cup from the hands of Bayern Munich.

The video features every game and goal of the season as well as personal comments from manager Alex Ferguson, and the players including David Beckham, Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke, Jesper Blomqvist and Peter Schmeichel.

Over two hours in length, I just wish I'd prepared the popcorn and maltesers before I started watching. I never left the couch.

A MUST for all sport lovers and Soccer fans. This one will join my already overflowing collection, except now I have a brand new video that takes pride of place. - Ed

WIN YOUR COPY

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Long serving Alex Ferguson took over the reigns at Manchester United almost a decade ago. From who?

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WORLD CUP DRAW

England & Italy Miss Out

Former World Cup winners Italy and England face potentially tough qualifying campaigns for the 2002 World Cup finals after being left out of the top group of seeds for the preliminary round draw, announced by FIFA last Sunday.

FIFA accepted the rankings used by UEFA to determine the current status of their 51 member nations, so Italy, who have won the World Cup three times and hosted the tournament twice, were placed 13th in the rankings, missing the cut-off for the top seeded nations by four places.

England who won the World Cup as hosts in 1966, were a lowly 17th.

With world champions France qualifying automatically, the 50 remaining European nations have been ranked for seeding purposes.

The top seeds are Spain, Romania, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium and Yugoslavia.

The European competition will consist of nine groups with the group winners qualifying for the finals.

The nine runners-up plus the third-placed team from the final Asian qualifying competition will go into five play-offs.



UEFA president Lennart Johansson, who is also chairman of the World Cup Organising Committee, told a news conference last Sunday: "The ranking list is based on the most recent

qualifying competitions and reflects the current situation in the order of European football, not what the situation may have been like a number of years ago."

Seven of the top nine seeds — Spain, Romania, Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic, Germany and Yugoslavia — all won their groups in the Euro 2000 qualifying competition.

The other two group winners are out of the top group for different reasons — France because they qualify as world champions and Italy because, although they won their Euro 2000 group, they had a relatively poor campaign, topping their group with only 15 points.

The second group of seeds also includes Portugal, England, Turkey and Denmark who have all qualified for the European championships.

But Ireland, who narrowly failed to clinch a place in Euro 2000, have slipped into the third tier, while Hungary, who boasted the best team in the world in the mid-1950s, are ranked in the fourth tier along with Iceland, Bosnia and Latvia.

European seeding list for World Cup qualifiers

FIFA issued the following seeding list last Sunday for the European qualifying competition for the 2002 World Cup finals. The qualifying round draw takes place tonight (Tuesday):

Top seeds: Spain, Romania, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, Yugoslavia

Second seeds: Austria, Portugal, Italy, Scotland, Ukraine, Russia, England, Turkey, Denmark

Third seeds: Ireland, Croatia, Slovakia, Israel, Bulgaria, Greece, Switzerland, Poland, Lithuania

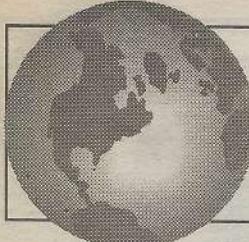
Fourth seeds: Cyprus, Hungary, Finland, Iceland, Macedonia, Latvia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Wales Fifth seeds: Georgia, Armenia, Estonia, Northern Ireland, Albania, Faroe Islands, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, San Marino, Andorra

Qualified automatically: France (world champions).

The competition will comprise nine groups with five groups of six teams and four groups of five teams.

The nine group winners qualify for the finals, the nine runners-up go into the play-offs along with the Asian team which finishes third in that zonal competition.

The five winners from those play-offs qualify.



WORLD



MANCHESTER UNITED

World's Richest

Manchester United remain the world's richest soccer club but Spanish and Italian rivals could overtake them soon, according to a survey published last week.

The Rich List survey by accountants Deloitte and Touche and soccer magazine FourFour Two revealed that all the 20 wealthiest clubs were in Europe and 14 of them were either English or Italian.

Flamengo of Brazil were 11th in the last Rich List, with clubs ranked according to turnover, but this time they were pushed out by the Europeans with their flow of cash from satellite television.

Spain's Atletico Madrid and Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam also slipped out of the super-rich group.

United, who last week beat

Palmeiras of Brazil 1-0 in Tokyo to become the first British side to win the World Club Cup, generated income of 87.9 million pounds (\$140.1 million) from all sources in the 1997/98 season.

That figure was unchanged from the 1996/97 season but is expected to increase dramatically next year.

"At 87.9 million pounds, their turnover in 1997/98 was around 20 percent more than that of Real Madrid who, with a turnover of 72.2 million pounds, have knocked Barcelona from the number two spot this year," the survey said.

Real's turnover increased by almost 17 million pounds (\$27.09 million), much of it derived from pay television and the club's Champions League triumph in 1998.



WEMBLEY DESIGN NOT GOOD ENOUGH

The planned Wembley stadium will be unfit for the Olympics and sports officials have 14 days to find a solution that would work for athletics as well as soccer, the British government said last week.

"This stadium, as designed or in any similar configuration, cannot readily provide the central venue for an Olympic Games bid for London or an appropriate venue for the World Athletics Championships," Chris Smith, minister in charge of sport and culture, told Parliament.

A design for a new national stadium to replace the famous twin-towered venue was submitted in July, but critics said it was aimed only at hosting soccer and with a view to England's 2006 World Cup bid.

Smith told the Wembley authorities to come up with a better idea by December 15.

"The new 475 million pound (\$760.3 million) stadium, due to open in 2003, would fail to provide adequate seating and sightlines for large numbers of spectators and offer poor cover and access to the track for athletes and officials," he said.

Wembley National Stadium Ltd said later they welcomed the report because it showed the difficulties of meeting the needs of a range of sports.

"We are confident that we will provide satisfactory answers to these technical questions by December 15th," the company said in a statement, adding they felt that given flexibility the stadium could accommodate the different sports satisfactorily.

Sports Minister Kate Hoey commissioned an architectural report on Wembley after plans showed it would only be able to accommodate around 65,000 fans for athletics events.

The British Olympic Association said this was



Wembley Stadium: Poor design jeopardises upgrade.

not big enough for a 2012 Olympic bid.

Wembley responded with a design for a 15 million pound (\$23.99 million) platform comprising a running track and about 15,000 seats, but Smith has deemed this solution unworkable.

The construction of a temporary concrete deck for the running track could "render the stadium unusable for international-standard football for upwards of two years," Smith said.

"The independent report has substantiated our fears that the upgrade from 65,000 to 80,000 spectators is not feasible without severely impairing the

quality of the seating," Mark Howell, a British Olympic Association spokesman said.

"But it cannot be beyond the ability of highly competent architects to look at other possibilities," Howell said.

Wembley said in their statement the report contained a number of factual inaccuracies that had to be addressed.

The planned stadium was designed by Sir Norman Foster and H.O.K. Lobb, creators of Sydney's 110,000-capacity Stadium Australia.

BILL HURLEY'S AUSTRALIAN SPORTSBOOK

Phone: (02) 9897 0088 (see page 7 for more details)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United	\$2.10		
Arsenal	\$3.25		
Chelsea	\$6.50		
Leeds	\$6.50		
Sunderland	\$67.00		
Liverpool	\$17.00		
West Ham	\$101.00		
Everton	\$501.00		
Newcastle	\$1001.00		
Aston Villa	\$1001.00		

TO WIN EURO 2000

Holland	\$5.00	
Italy	\$6.50	
France	\$8.00	
Spain	\$8.00	
Germany	\$10.00	
England	\$11.00	
Czech Republic	\$17.00	
Sweden	\$17.00	
Yugoslavia	\$21.00	
Norway	\$26.00	

UEFA CUP

Juventus	\$6.00	
Arsenal	\$8.00	
Roma	\$9.00	
Leeds	\$13.00	
Celta Vigo	\$15.00	
Dep La Coruna	\$17.00	
Bayer Leverkusen	\$17.00	
Monaco	\$21.00	
Kaiserslautern	\$21.00	
Atletico Madrid	\$21.00	

EUROPEAN CUP

Barcelona	\$3.75	
Lazio	\$4.00	
Man United	\$8.00	
Chelsea	\$8.00	
Real Madrid	\$10.00	
Bayern Munich	\$15.00	
Fiorentina	\$15.00	
Valencia	\$15.00	
Porto	\$34.00	
Marseille	\$51.00	
Bordeaux	\$51.00	
Hertha	\$51.00	
Rosenborg	\$51.00	
Dynamo Kiev	\$81.00	
Feyenoord	\$201.00	
Sparta Prague	\$201.00	

ITALIAN SERIE A

Lazio	\$2.40	
Inter Milan	\$4.30	
Juventus	\$4.30	
AC Milan	\$6.50	
Roma	\$8.50	
Parma	\$13.00	
Fiorentina	\$34.00	
Udinese	\$101.00	
Bologna	\$101.00	
Torino	\$201.00	
Bari	\$301.00	
Perugia	\$401.00	
Reggina	\$501.00	
Cagliari	\$661.00	
Lecce	\$661.00	
Verona	\$1001.00	
Venezia	\$1001.00	
Piacenza	\$1001.00	

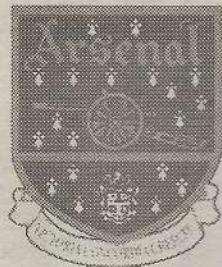


ABSW



WORLD

AFRICAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR



Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal & Nigeria)



Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu has won the African Footballer of the Year award, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced last week.

It is the second time the 23-year-old Arsenal forward has won the award, following his triumph in 1996 when he captained Nigeria's under-23 team to the Olympic title in Atlanta.

Kanu, who has made a remarkable recovery from a life-threatening heart ailment, has been a revelation in the English league since he joined Arsenal from Inter Milan in January.

He previously played for Ajax Amsterdam. He finished with 46 points, just two points more than Ghanaian defender Samuel Osei Kuffour of Bayern Munich in the poll of members of CAF's technical and press committees.

Ivory Coast striker Ibrahima Bakayoko of French club Olympique Marseille was third with 42 points, two points ahead of former World Footballer of the Year George Weah of Liberia.

Mustapha Hadji of Morocco, last year's African poll winner, finished joint eighth, one place below 1997 winner Victor Ikpeba of



Nwankwo Kanu: Two-time winner.

Nigeria.

Kanu's selection means Nigeria have won four African Footballer of the Year awards in the last six years since CAF took over the running of the award from the magazine France Football.

Teenage striker Aruna Dindane of Ivorian club ASEC Abidjan was the highest-placed player with an African club. He finished sixth.

One controversial selection in the top 10 was that of Algerian-born Ali Benarbia of French club Paris St Germain.

He has consistently refused to play for his country but was still voted equal eighth.

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PREVIOUS WINNERS

Previous winners of the African Footballer of the Year award & France Football award

1970:	Salif Keita	(St Etienne and Mali)
1971:	Ibrahim Sunday	(Asante Kotoko and Ghana)
1972:	Cherif Soueymane	(Hafia and Guinea)
1973:	Tshimene Bwanga	(TP Mazembe and Zaire)
1974:	Paul Moukila	(CARA Brazzaville and Congo)
1975:	Ahmed Faras	(Mohammedia and Morocco)
1976:	Roger Milla	(Canon Yaounde and Cameroon)
1977:	Tarak Dhiab	(Esperance and Tunisia)
1978:	Karim Abdoul Razak	(Asante Kotoko and Ghana)
1979:	Thomas Nkono	(Canon Yaounde and Cameroon)
1980:	Jean Manga Onguene	(Canon Yaounde and Cameroon)
1981:	Lakhdar Belloumi	(GCR Mascara and Algeria)
1982:	Thomas Nkono	(Espanol and Cameroon)
1983:	Mahmoud Al Khatib	(Al Ahli and Egypt)
1984:	Theophile Abega	(Toulouse and Cameroon)
1985:	Mohamed Timoumi	(Royal Armed Forces and Morocco)
1986:	Badiou Ezaki	(Real Mallorca and Morocco)
1987:	Rabah Madjer	(FC Porto and Algeria)
1988:	Kalusha Bwalya	(Cercle Bruges and Zambia)
1989:	George Weah	(Monaco and Liberia)
1990:	Roger Milla	(St Denis and Cameroon)
1991:	Abedi Pele Ayew	(Marseille and Ghana)
1992:	Abedi Pele Ayew	(Marseille and Ghana)
1993:	Abedi Pele Ayew	(Lyon and Ghana)
1994:	George Weah	(Paris St Germain and Liberia)

Confederation of African Football award:

1994	Emmanuel Amunike	(Sporting Lisbon and Nigeria)
1995	George Weah	(AC Milan and Liberia)
1996	Nwankwo Kanu	(Inter Milan and Nigeria)
1997	Victor Ikpeba	(Monaco and Nigeria)
1998	Mustapha Hadji	(Deportivo Coruna and Morocco)
1999	Nwankwo Kanu	(Arsenal and Nigeria)

The 'France Football' award was discontinued after 1994, when CAF instituted a new award.

1999 THE VOTING

Voting for the 1999 African Footballer of the Year award, announced by the Confederation of African Football on Wednesday:

1. Nwankwo Kanu	(Arsenal and Nigeria)	46 points
2. Samuel Osei Kuffour	(Bayern Munich and Ghana)	44
3. Ibrahima Bakayoko	(Marseille and Ivory Coast)	42
4. George Weah	(AC Milan and Liberia)	40
5. Austin Okocha	(Paris St Germain and Nigeria)	30
6. Aruna Dindane	(ASEC Abidjan and Ivory Coast)	28
7. Victor Ikpeba	(Borussia Dortmund and Nigeria)	26
8= Ali Benarbia	(Paris St Germain and Algeria)	24
Mustapha Hadji	(Coventry City and Morocco)	24
10. Khaled Badra	(Esperance and Tunisia)	22

WORLD

RONALDO OUT FIVE MONTHS

Ronaldo will be out of soccer for five months after an operation on a damaged knee last week.

Surgeons were said to have conducted a satisfactory operation on the Brazil and Inter Milan striker at the the chic Pitie Salpetriere hospital in central Paris.

"Post-operative rehabilitation is expected immediately. A return to competition is not expected for four or five months," a brief hospital statement said.

Inter said last week they thought their player would need only a maximum three months to recover.

Ronaldo suffered his latest setback in Inter's 6-0 serie A win over Lecce on November 21. He twisted his right leg and partially ruptured his knee cap tendon after catching his foot in a divot on the rain-soaked San Siro pitch.

Minutes before limping off he had scored from the penalty spot.

The Brazilian has been hampered by knee problems over the past two seasons and never recaptured the breathtaking form he showed during his first season in Italy between 1997-98.

He was despondent about the latest injury. "I don't know what to say. I only say that I'm incredibly unlucky," he was quoted as saying on his Brazil-based website.

"Nothing can go right, not for me, not for Inter. I'm really sorry for our supporters."



Ronaldo: Nothing going right.

Ronaldo played only 11 full matches for Inter last season and has played for 90 minutes in only two of the club's 11 games this season.

He underwent surgery on his right knee in 1996 when playing for PSV Eindhoven.

The latest injury came only a week after a bizarre tug-of-war between his club and country, when Ronaldo trav-

elled across the world to play for the Brazil under-23 team in a two-match tour of Australia.

Inter said they had only released him for one game. When FIFA ruled in their favour, Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo took his anger out on the player, saying Ronaldo was no use for one match and sent him back to Italy without kicking a ball.

EURO 2000 NEED VOLUNTEERS

Euro 2000 organisers launched a campaign last week to recruit 3,200 volunteers over the Internet to help next summer's tournament run smoothly.

The volunteers, who will be drawn mainly from the two host nations Belgium and the Netherlands, will be selected and trained by an employment agency which has set up two special websites.

Euro 2000 said in a statement they



were looking for 400 volunteers to work as drivers, parking attendants, hostesses and accreditation assistants in each of the eight host cities.

But dedicated soccer fans should think twice before applying.

"The chance of volunteers being able to watch the Euro 2000 matches is not great," the organisers cautioned. "They are part of the operational organisation and this will be running at full speed around and during matches."

The website addresses are: <http://euro2000.adeco.be> and <http://euro2000.adeco.nl>

GERMAN BONUS TO RETAIN EURO CROWN

Germany's players will receive 150,000 marks (\$77,160) each if they retain their crown at next year's European Championship finals, the

German Football Federation (DFB) said last week.

Every player will get 65,000 marks if the team reach the quarter-finals, 100,000 for a semi-final appearance and 125,000 if they lose in the final.

They will not get anything if Germany fail to get past the group stage.

The finals are in Belgium and the Netherlands from June 10 until July 2.

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

Tuesday December 7	Friday December 10	Sunday December 12
English Premier League Tottenham v West Ham (LIVE) <i>Fox Sports</i> 6am - 9.30am	Spanish Soccer <i>Fox Sports</i> 10am - 12pm German Bundesliga <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)</i> 3pm - 5pm	Italian Serie A (LIVE) <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 6.25am - 8.30am German Bundesliga <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)</i> 10am - 12pm
Italian Serie A Fiorentina v AC Milan <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 11am - 1pm	Soccer Scene <i>Fox Sports</i> 5.30pm - 6.30pm	Italian Serie A <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 11am - 1pm
English Premier League Tottenham v West Ham (Replay) <i>Fox Sports</i> 4.30pm - 6.30pm	National Soccer League Canberra v Sydney Olympic (LIVE) <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)</i> 7.30pm - 9.30pm	Italian Serie A <i>SBS TV</i> 10.30am - 11.30am
Dutch First Division Ajax v RKG Waalwijk <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 7pm - 9pm	English Premier League Replay of last weeks games <i>Fox Sports</i> 12am - 6am (Saturday morning)	On The Ball <i>SBS TV</i> 11.30am - 12.30pm
Soccer Central <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)</i> 9pm - 10pm	English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (Replay) <i>Fox Sports</i> 12.30pm - 2.30pm	English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (Replay) <i>Fox Sports</i> 3pm - 5pm
2002 World Cup Draw <i>SBS TV (Full Ceremony)</i> 10pm (1 Hr delay)	Saturday December 11 English First Division Notts Forest v Ipswich <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)</i> 10am - 12pm	UEFA Champions League FC Porto v Hertha BSC <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 3pm - 5pm
Wednesday December 8	Soccer Scene <i>Fox Sports</i> 12pm - 1pm	National Soccer League <i>ABC TV</i> 5pm - 7pm
UEFA Champions League Lazio v Chelsea (LIVE) <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 6.30am - 8.45am	Scottish Premier League <i>Fox Sports</i> 1pm - 3pm	National Soccer League Melbourne Knights v Northern Spirit <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)</i> 9.30pm - 11.30pm
UEFA Champions League Bayern Munich v Dynamo Kyiv <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 8.45am - 11am	UEFA Champions League Feyenoord v Marseille <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 3pm - 5pm	Dutch First Division FC Utrecht v PSV (LIVE) <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 12.25am - 2.30am (Monday Morning)
UEFA Champions League Real Madrid v Rosenborg BK <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 4pm - 6pm	Champions League Magazine <i>SBS TV</i> 3.30pm - 4.30pm	English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (LIVE) 2.55am - 5.30am (Monday Morning)
English Premier League Show <i>Fox Sports</i> 7.30pm - 9pm	French Premier League PSG v Rennes <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)</i> 4pm - 6pm	Monday December 13 Toyota Cup (Replay) Man Utd v Palmeiras <i>Fox Sports</i> 2pm - 4pm
Thursday December 9	World Soccer Anderlecht v Genk <i>SBS TV</i> 5.30am - 7am	English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (Replay) 4.30pm - 6.30pm
UEFA Champions League Manchester Utd v Valencia (LIVE) <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 6.30am - 8.45am	UEFA Champions League Girondins v Fiorentina <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 8.45am - 11.00am	Best Of English Soccer <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)</i> 5pm - 6pm
UEFA Champions League Barcelona v AC Sparta <i>Optus Vision (ESPN)</i> 4.00pm - 6.00pm	English Premier League Show (Replay) <i>SBS TV</i> 5.30pm - 6.30pm	English Premier League <i>SBS TV</i> 7.30pm - 8.30pm
European Soccer Show <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)</i> 6pm - 7pm	National Soccer League Marconi v Auckland <i>Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)</i> 10pm - 12am	Spanish Soccer <i>Fox Sports</i> 4am - 6am (Tuesday morning)
UEFA Champions League Lazio v Chelsea <i>SBS TV</i> 10pm - 12am	English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (LIVE) <i>Fox Sports</i> 2am - 4am (Sunday morning)	Tuesday December 14 English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (LIVE) 6am - 9.30am
		English FA Cup Third Round Teams TBA (Replay) 4.30pm - 6.30pm

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Derby County 0 Leeds United 1, Liverpool 4
Sheffield Wednesday 1, Aston Villa 0 Newcastle
United 1, Bradford City 1 Middlesbrough 1, Leicester
City 0 Arsenal 3, Manchester United 5 Everton 1,
Southampton 0 Coventry City 0, Sunderland 4
Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 5 Watford 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Leeds	17	12	2	3	30	19	38
2. Manchester United	16	11	3	2	40	21	36
3. Arsenal	17	11	2	4	31	16	35
4. Sunderland	17	10	4	3	31	17	34
5. Liverpool	17	9	3	5	24	14	30
6. Leicester City	17	9	2	6	26	23	29
7. Tottenham Hotspur	15	8	2	5	25	20	26
8. Chelsea	15	7	3	5	21	15	24
9. West Ham United	15	7	3	5	17	14	24
10. Middlesbrough	17	7	3	7	21	24	24
11. Coventry City	17	5	6	6	23	18	21
12. Everton	17	5	6	6	25	27	21
13. Wimbledon	17	4	8	5	27	29	20
14. Newcastle	17	5	4	8	28	30	19
15. Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	14	19	19
16. Southampton	16	4	5	7	20	25	17
17. Bradford City	16	3	4	9	13	25	13
18. Derby County	17	3	3	11	15	29	12
19. Watford	17	3	2	12	13	33	11
20. Sheffield Wed.	16	1	3	12	14	40	6

LEADING SCORERS

16 - Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
12 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Andy Cole (Manchester United)
10 - Michael Bridges (Leeds United)
9 - Dion Dublin (Aston Villa)
8 - Dwight Yorke (Manchester United), Steffen Iversen (Tottenham Hotspur), Tony Cotte (Leicester City), Kevin Campbell (Everton), John Hartson (Wimbledon)
7 - Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City), Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal), Marians Pahars (Southampton), John Hartson (Wimbledon), Robbie Keane (Coventry City), Niall Quinn (Sunderland)
6 - Brian Deane (Middlesbrough), Rory Delap (Derby County), Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United), Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough)
5 - Davor Suker (Arsenal), Gary McAllister (Coventry City), Titi Camara (Liverpool), Emile Heskey (Leicester City), Gustavo Poyet (Chelsea), Francis Jeffers (Everton), Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Manchester United), Carl Cort (Wimbledon), Marcus Gayle (Wimbledon), Ian Harte (Leeds United).

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Nottingham Forest 0 Ipswich 1, Barnsley 1 Charlton 1, Bolton 2 Tranmere 3, Crewe 2 Crystal Palace 0, Fulham 0 Birmingham 0, Huddersfield 1 Queens Park Rangers 0, Norwich 2 West Bromwich 1, Port Vale 0 Blackburn 0, Sheffield United 1 Portsmouth 0, Stockport 2 Grimsby 1, Swindon 1 Walsall 1, Wolverhampton 4 Manchester City 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Huddersfield	22	13	4	5	39	22	43
2. Manchester City	21	13	3	5	31	17	42
3. Charlton	21	12	4	5	38	24	40
4. Ipswich	21	11	5	5	35	23	38
5. Barnsley	21	11	3	7	39	33	36
6. Fulham	21	8	9	4	24	18	33
7. Birmingham	21	8	8	5	32	23	32
8. Queens P. Rangers	22	8	8	6	32	28	32
9. Bolton	21	8	7	6	31	23	31
10. Stockport	21	8	7	6	25	29	31
11. Wolverhampton	20	7	8	5	23	19	29
12. Tranmere	22	8	5	9	31	32	29
13. Norwich	21	7	7	7	19	19	28
14. Blackburn	20	6	9	5	23	19	27
15. West Bromwich	20	5	10	5	21	21	25
16. Grimsby	21	7	4	10	22	34	25
17. Crystal Palace	21	6	6	9	28	34	24
18. Port Vale	22	5	7	10	26	31	22
19. Nottingham Forest	21	5	6	10	23	27	21
20. Portsmouth	22	5	6	11	25	36	21
21. Sheffield United	22	5	6	11	25	38	21
22. Crewe	20	5	5	10	20	29	20
23. Walsall	22	4	7	11	19	34	19
24. Swindon	22	3	8	11	16	34	17

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Brentford 0 Bristol Rovers 3, Bristol City 3 Reading 1, Burnley 1 Wycombe 0, Cambridge 0 Bournemouth 2, Gillingham 1 Bury 0, Luton 2 Notts County 2, Millwall 2 Cardiff 0, Oxford 1 Stoke 1, Preston 2

Oldham 0, Scunthorpe 1 Wigan 2, Wrexham 1 Blackpool 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Wigan	20	11	9	0	40	19	42
2. Preston	20	12	6	2	33	18	42
3. Gillingham	20	11	5	4	38	23	38
4. Bristol Rovers	19	11	5	3	25	11	38
5. Burnley	20	10	7	3	26	12	37
6. Millwall	20	10	6	4	32	21	36
7. Notts County	20	10	5	5	30	22	35
8. Stoke	20	9	7	4	30	18	34
9. Brentford	20	9	6	5	31	26	33
10. Bournemouth	20	8	4	8	28	28	28
11. Luton	20	8	4	8	25	27	28
12. Wycombe	20	6	7	7	24	27	25
13. Bury	20	5	9	6	29	27	24
14. Bristol City	19	4	9	6	24	27	21
15. Oxford	20	5	6	9	19	24	21
16. Oldham	20	5	5	10	20	26	20
17. Scunthorpe	20	5	5	10	21	33	20
18. Wrexham	20	4	8	8	19	32	20
19. Cardiff	20	4	7	9	22	28	19
20. Colchester	20	4	6	10	21	42	18
21. Reading	19	4	5	10	23	37	17
22. Blackpool	20	3	7	10	21	35	16
23. Cambridge	20	3	6	11	28	36	15
24. Chesterfield	19	2	6	11	11	21	12

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Barnet 2 Chester 0, Darlington 4 Halifax 0, Hartlepool 1 Peterborough 0, Hull City 4 Exeter 0, Leyton Orient 0 Carlisle 1, Mansfield v Brighton postponed, Northampton 2 Macclesfield 0, Plymouth 3 Southend 1, Rochdale 0 Cheltenham 0, Rotherham 1 Lincoln 1, Swansea 1 York 0, Torquay 3 Shrewsbury 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Barnet	20	12	4	4	30	21	40
2. Rotherham	20	11	4	5	29	13	37
3. Darlington	20	10	6	4	25	13	36
4. Northampton	20	11	3	6	23	15	36
5. Peterborough	20	10	4	6	28	22	34
6. Torquay	20	10	4	6	26	21	34
7. Plymouth	20	9	6	5	27	21	33
8. Swansea	20	9	5	6	19	14	32
9. Hartlepool	20	9	3	8	26	20	30
10. Halifax	20	9	3	8	22	23	30
11. Macclesfield	20	8	5	7	30	28	29
12. Lincoln	20	7	7	6	31	30	28
13. Southend	20	8	4	8	26	27	28
14. Brighton	19	7	6	6	27	20	27
15. Rochdale	20	7	6	7	14	11	27
16. Cheltenham	20	7	4	9	17	18	25
17. Exeter	20	7	4	9	22	25	25
18. York	20	6	6	8	18	25	24
19. Hull City	20	6	5	9	18	21	23
20. Mansfield	19	6	4	9	25		

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Willem II Tilburg	4	Utrecht	3	Ajax	Amsterdam	1
RKC Waalwijk	2	NEC Nijmegen	1	Cambuur		
Leeuwarden	0	PSV Eindhoven	2	Roda JC Kerkrade		
0	MVV Maastricht	0	Twente Enschede	2	Fortuna	
Sittard	1	Den Bosch	1	Vitesse Arnhem	0	AZ
Alkmaar	2	Sparta Rotterdam	1	Feyenoord		
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
1. Ajax Amsterdam	15	11	2	2	45	20 35
2. PSV Eindhoven	14	11	1	2	49	11 34
3. Heerenveen	15	10	1	4	29	16 31
4. Twente Enschede	16	8	6	2	28	16 30
5. Feyenoord	15	8	5	2	29	15 29
6. Roda JC Kerkrade	15	9	2	4	26	18 29
7. Willem II Tilburg	15	9	2	4	29	29 29
8. RKC Waalwijk	16	9	2	5	29	27 29
9. Vitesse Arnhem	15	8	4	3	28	21 28
10. AZ Alkmaar	16	9	1	6	33	27 28
11. Utrecht	16	7	0	9	24	30 21
12. Sparta Rotterdam	15	4	0	11	22	36 12
13. NEC Nijmegen	15	3	2	10	19	34 11
14. Fortuna Sittard	16	2	4	10	17	28 10
15. Graafschap	15	1	6	8	14	25 9
16. MVV Maastricht	15	2	3	10	21	40 9
17. Cambuur L.	16	2	3	11	15	35 9
18. Den Bosch	16	1	4	11	14	43 7

LEADING SCORERS

- 19 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven)
 14 - Pierre van Hooijdonk (Vitesse Arnhem)
 11 - Mariano Bombarda (Willem II Tilburg)
 10 - Richard Knopper (Ajax Amsterdam)
 9 - Brian Laudrup (Ajax), John Bosman (AZ Alkmaar), Luc Nilis (PSV), Rick Hoogendorp (RKC Waalwijk), Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente Enschede)
 8 - Barry van Galen (AZ Alkmaar), Bob Peeters (Roda JC Kerkrade)
 7 - Nikos Machlas (Ajax)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

AJ Auxerre	1	Metz	1	Monaco	2	Racing Lens	0	Paris	1	St Germain	1	Stade Rennes	0	Racing Strasbourg	2
St Germain	1	Stade Rennes	0	Racing Strasbourg	2	Bastia	0	Olympique Lyon	1	Troyes	3	Girondins	1	Bordeaux	2
Bastia	0	Olympique Lyon	1	Troyes	3	Girondins	1	Bordeaux	2	Montpellier	0	Olympique Marseille	2	Le Le Havre	1
Bordeaux	2	Montpellier	0	Olympique Marseille	2	Le Le Havre	1	Nantes	1	St Etienne	1	Nancy	0	Sedan	2
Havre	0	Nantes	1	St Etienne	1	Nancy	0	Sedan	2	St Etienne	1	Le Havre	1	Racing Strasbourg	2
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts								
1. Monaco	18	12	3	3	40	16	39								
2. Paris St Germain	18	10	3	5	27	20	33								
3. Olympique Lyon	18	9	4	5	21	17	31								
4. AJ Auxerre	18	9	3	6	24	22	30								
5. Girondins Bordeaux	18	7	6	5	30	27	27								
6. Sedan	18	8	3	7	26	27	27								
7. Olympique Marseille	18	6	8	4	25	18	26								
8. Stade Rennes	18	7	5	6	25	23	26								
9. St Etienne	18	7	5	6	25	26	26								
10. Metz	18	4	11	3	21	16	23								
11. Troyes	18	7	2	9	20	28	23								
12. Bastia	18	5	7	6	23	22	22								
13. Racing Strasbourg	18	6	4	8	18	26	22								
14. Nantes	18	6	2	10	20	21	20								
15. Racing Lens	18	5	5	8	14	23	20								
16. Le Havre	18	5	4	9	19	30	19								
17. Nancy	18	4	5	9	24	28	17								
18. Montpellier	18	3	4	11	19	30	13								

LEADING SCORERS

- 12 - Sonny Anderson (Olympique Lyon), Marco Simone and David Trezeguet, (both Monaco)
 9 - Stephane Guivarc'h (AJ Auxerre), Lilian Laslandes, Sylvain Wiltord (both Girondins Bordeaux)
 8 - Tony Cascarino (Nancy), Mikael Madar (Paris St Germain), Shabani Nonda (Stade Rennes), Alex (St Etienne)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Standard Liege	0	Anderlecht	0	Genk	4	Harelbeke	3
Ghent	6	Mechelen	1	Charleroi	0	Eendracht Aalst	1
Excelsior Mouscron	1	Germinal Beerschot	1	Beveren	2	Lokeren	1
Beveren	2	Lokeren	1	Lierse	0	Sint-Truiden	0
Lommel	0	Club Bruges	0	Verbroedering Geel	2	Westerlo	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Anderlecht	15	11	3	1	42	19	36
2. Genk	16	10	5	1	43	20	35

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

- Sutjeska Niksic 1 Spartak Subotica 0, Partizan Belgrade 4 Radnicki Kragujevac 0, Cukaricki

3. Lierse	16	9	4	3	29	15	31
4. Ghent	16	10	0	6	46	30	30
5. Club Bruges	15	9	2	4	33	14	29
6. Germinal Beerschot	16	8	3	5	28	24	27
7. Westerlo	15	7	4	4	34	30	25
8. Aalst	16	7	2	7	30	25	23
9. Standard Liege	16	7	2	7	24	28	23
10. Excelsior Mouscron	16	6	4	6	29	24	22
11. Mechelen	16	6	2	8	23	40	20
12. Charleroi	16	4	5	7	20	26	17
13. Lokeren	16	4	5	7	26	33	17
14. Harelbeke	16	3	4	9	23	30	13
15. Beveren	15	2	5	8	17	33	11
16. Lommel	16	1	8	7	14	30	11
17. Verbroedering Geel	16	1	8	7	11	29	11
18. Sint-Truiden	16	2	4	10	16	38	10

LEADING SCORERS

- 17 - Toni Brogno (Westerlo), Ole Martin Aarst (Ghent)
 10 - Tomasz Radzinski (Anderlecht), Jan Koller (Anderlecht)
 9 - Branko Strupar (Genk), Par Zetterberg (Anderlecht), David Paas (Harelbeke)
 8 - Andrei Demkine (Germinal Beerschot)
 7 - Dante Brogno (Charleroi), Steve Cooremans (Aalst), Marc Degryse (Germinal Beerschot), Jochen Janssen (Club Bruges), Gunther Schepens (Ghent), Sven Vermant (Club Bruges), Marcin Zewlakow (Mouscron)

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Paniliakos Pyrgos	3	Kalamata	1	Panathiniakos	3	Aris	1	
Salonica 0	Panionios Athens	3	Apollon Athens	1	Iaklis Salonika	3	Olympiakos Piraeus	4
Iaklis Salonika	3	Olympiakos Piraeus	4	Proodeftiki	1	Kavala 1	Panahaiki Patras	3
Kavala 1	Panahaiki Patras	3	Trikala 0	Xanthi 2	AEK Athens 2	Irkaklion 2	PAOK Salonika 0	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

Total

Home

Away

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
BRISBANE STRIKERS	10	6	3	1	18	9	21	5	3	2	0	13	6	5	3	1	1	5	3
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	10	6	2	2	16	8	20	5	2	2	1	8	6	5	4	0	1	8	2
CARLTON	10	5	3	2	21	11	18	5	3	1	1	11	6	5	2	2	1	10	5
PERTH GLORY	10	5	3	2	21	12	18	5	2	2	1	14	8	5	3	1	1	7	4
MARCONI STALLIONS	10	5	2	3	14	14	17	4	3	0	1	4	4	6	2	2	2	10	10
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	10	4	3	3	18	16	15	5	3	0	2	8	7	5	1	3	1	10	9
SOUTH MELBOURNE	10	4	2	4	17	15	14	5	4	1	0	14	4	5	0	1	4	3	11
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	10	3	4	3	14	15	13	5	1	3	1	8	8	5	2	1	2	6	7
PARRAMATTA POWER	10	3	3	4	17	18	12	6	2	3	1	10	8	4	1	0	3	7	10
AUCKLAND KINGZ	10	3	3	4	16	20	12	5	1	2	2	7	11	5	2	1	2	9	9
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	10	4	0	6	11	19	12	5	3	0	2	6	5	5	1	0	4	5	14
CANBERRA COSMOS	10	3	2	5	14	16	11	6	2	1	3	8	5	4	1	1	2	6	11
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	10	2	4	4	7	11	10	5	2	1	2	4	3	5	0	3	2	3	8
NORTHERN SPIRIT	10	3	1	6	8	15	10	4	2	0	2	4	5	6	1	1	4	4	10
SYDNEY UNITED	10	2	3	5	6	12	9	6	2	1	3	4	6	4	0	2	2	2	6
ADELAIDE FORCE	10	1	4	5	7	14	7	4	1	2	1	5	5	6	0	2	4	2	9

Auckland Kingz

(Middleby 15)

Gippsland Falcons

(MacNicol 49)

Venue: North Harbour Stadium Crowd: 2,284 Referee: D Rugg

Cautions: Bunce (AK) 31, Middleby (AK) 46, Gotis (GF) 86

Teams: Auckland Kingz: Bunce (Perry 81), Stergiopoulos (Van Steeden 80), Jackson, de Jong, Mennillo, Middleby, Ngata, Uicelich, Jones, Riddle (Rufer 45), Batty.

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Gotis, Durakovic, MacNicol, Vargas, Bell, Puca, Hutchinson, Savage, Marcina, Nilo (Kakos 78)

1

1

Carlton SC

(Marth 22, Moriera 54, 86, 90, Thompson 83)

5

Canberra Cosmos

(De Jesus 83)

1

Venue: Olympic Park Crowd: 2,166 Referee: C Diomis

Cautions: Lapsansky (C) 17, Gonzalez (CC) 20, Burt (CC) 21, Moreira (C) 50, Markovski (C) 59, Arrantz (CC) 87, James (CC) 56.

Red Card: Winnie (CC) 63

Teams: Carlton SC: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Anthopoulos, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Moreira, Lapsansky, Thompson (Della Rocca 90), Terminello, Markovski (Mitsiopoulos 74)

Canberra Cosmos: Barlow, Milin, Popovich, Burt (Arrantz 70), Polak (Kolpak 79), Winnie, Watkins, James, Hooker, DeJesus, Gonzalez (Prenzski 41)

2

1

Newcastle Breakers

(Roberts 45, Buonavoglia 58)

Brisbane Strikers

(Moore 51og)

Venue: Breakers Stadium Crowd: 5,027 Referee: B Hugo

Cautions: Meredith (BS) 37; Bell (BS) 39; Ditton (BS) 56; Wieczorek (NB) 61; Harper (NB) 83

Teams: Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus,

Moore, Sprod (Smith 46), Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek (Juchniewicz 87), Trpczewski (Tancheski 63), Harper

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Dwyer (Stefanutto 87), Bell

(Smeltz 66), Ditton, Grierson, Pilic, Forster, Meredith, McLaren, Baldwin

(Harris 46)

1

2

Northern Spirit

(Moss 59)

1

Marconi Stallions

0

Venue: North Sydney Oval Crowd: 9,089 Referee: G Connolly

Cautions: Slater (NS) 33, Gibson (MS) 89

Teams: Northern Spirit: Perosh, Enes (Cunico 76), Bingley, Rudan, Slater (Culina 87), Cranney, Moss, Arnold, Sobczyk, Griffiths, Saad (Perinch 85).

Marconi Stallions: Turnbull, Gibson, Maloney, Smith, Invincible, Farah, Duric (Junior 64), Awaratefe, Renaud, Trajanovski, Zoric.

0

1

Sydney Olympic

(Kalantzis 56, Arambasic 81)

2

Adelaide Force

0

Venue: Belmore Sports Ground Crowd: 5,032 Referee: E Lennie

Cautions: Juric (SO) 26, Sabljak (AF) 29, Phillips (SO) 52, Jomaa (SO) 82

Teams: Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Wilson, Baillie, Juric, Kalantzis, Emerton, Cardozo, Phillips, Mendez (Jomaa 79), N. Carle (Arambasic 65), Rush (Tome 85)

Adelaide Force: Knezevic, Costanzo, Tobin, Cartwright, Sabljak, Brain (Veart 88), Vidmar, Ferguson (Day 79), Kemp, Mori, Hassell

4

2

South Melbourne

(Panopoulos 19, Anastasiadis 38, Curcija 62pen, Coveny 80)

4

Parramatta Power

(Griffiths 35, Sterjovski 60)

2

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium Crowd: 7,653 Referee: M Breeze

Cautions: Sterjovski (PP) 26, Liparoti (SM) 27, Vrkic (PP) 42, Ardene (PP) 76 Red Card: Burns (PP) 62

Teams: South Melbourne: Udvaracz, Iosifidis, DeAmicis, Orlic, Blatsis, Clarkson (Tsekinis 72), Panopoulos, Curcija (Magnacca 89), Anastasiadis (Coveny 72), Lozanovski, Liparoti.

Parramatta Power: Crews, Vrkic (Santalab 80), Burns, Ardene, Sterjovski, Griffiths (Aegleton 56), Blagojevic, Angelucci (Townsend 77), Erlich, Gibson, Bennett

1

1

Sydney United

Perth Glory

(Despotovski 48)

Venue: Sydney Utd Sports Centre Crowd: 4,480 Referee: J Blaney

Cautions: Jerman (SU) 34

Teams: Sydney United: Hughes, Younis (Luff 72), Racker (Jurilj 20), Kupresak, Bosnar, Jerman (Sabic 72), A Moric, Podeljak, Zec, Rastall, J Moric

Perth Glory: Petkovic, Trajkovski, Miller (Carbone 85), Naven, Harnwell, Thorp, Junior, Ergic (Afros 67), Edwards, Despotovski, Boutsianis

LEADING GOALSCORERS

P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	9
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	8
M Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	6
J Griffiths	(Parramatta Power)	6
J Anastasiadis	(Sth Melbourne)	5
Z Babic	(Marconi Stallions)	5
C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	5
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	5
I Ergic	(Perth Glory)	5
D Watkins	(Canberra Cosmos)	5



Alex Moreira: Hat trick against Canberra

ROUND ELEVEN

Friday 10 December Adelaide Force v Wollongong Wolves Hindmarsh Stadium 7.30pm . Canberra Cosmos v Sydney Olympic Bruce Stadium 7.30pm. Parramatta Power v Newcastle Breakers Parramatta Stadium 7.30pm. Carlton SC v Sydney United Olympic Park 7.30pm.

Saturday 11 December Marconi Stallions v Auckland Kingz Marconi Stadium 7pm. Brisbane Strikers v Gippsland Falcons Suncorp Metway Stadium 7pm.

Sunday 12 December Perth Glory v Sth Melbourne Perth Oval 5pm. Melbourne Knights v Northern Spirit Knights Stadium 6pm
(all times provided are local times)